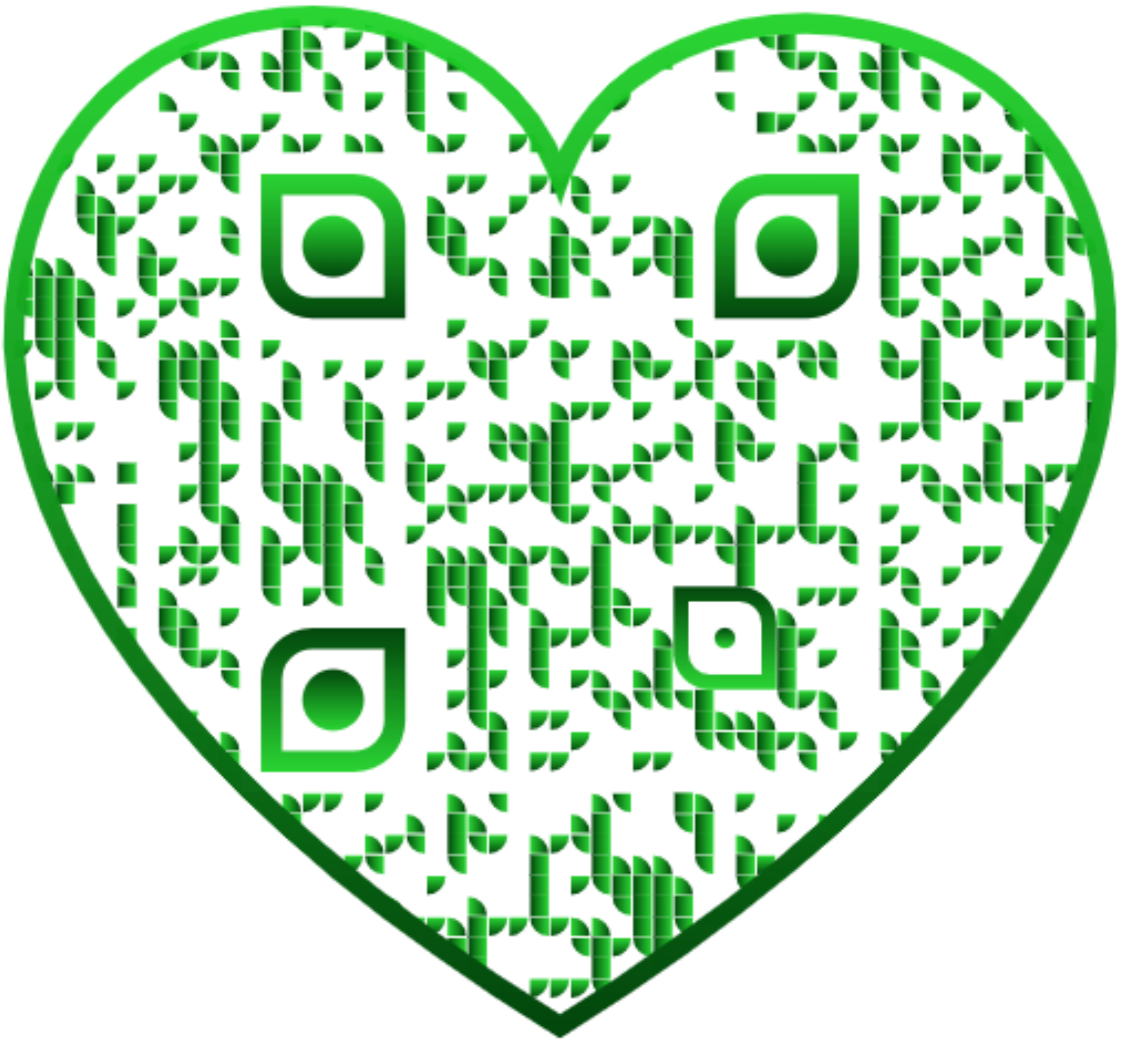
UFO's an Air Force Dilemma

HECTOR QUINTANILLA



Preface to “UFOs, An Air Force Dilemma”

by Hector Quintanilla, USAF (retired)

National Institute for Discovery Science

For the first time NIDS is electronically publishing a book manuscript written in 1975 by Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, the head of the USAF Project Blue Book. Project Blue Book was supposed to be an objective investigation and documentation of the UFO phenomenon carried out by the United States Air Force from March 1952 until December 1969. Project Blue Book was the successor to Projects Sign and Grudge.

The book is a summary in Quintanilla’s own words of his involvement, as head of project Blue Book, in the investigation of the UFO phenomenon. “UFOs, an Air Force Dilemma” was also given the title “UFOs: A $20,000,000 Fiasco” by Quintanilla in a book proposal to unnamed publishers.

NIDS’s purpose in making available this previously unpublished manuscript is twofold: (a) to demonstrate to the interested public, through the authors own unedited words, Lt. Col. Quintanilla’s attitudes, preconceptions, and biases that dominated Project Blue Book, and (b) to make available to historians and to the public the methodology and practices employed by the United States Air Force in investigating and cataloging the UFO phenomenon.

NIDS had the choice of introducing editorial changes into the manuscript. We refrained in order to preserve the historical accuracy of this document. The manuscript covers the years of Quintanilla’s own involvement from July 1963 to December1969 in Project Blue Book and also contains many valuable insights into the public and media reaction to the USAF funded study, from the perspective of the author. In particular, Lt. Col. Quintanilla’s antagonistic descriptions of University of Arizona professor James A McDonald’s pursuit of the UFO phenomena as well as Dr. J. Allen Hynek’s relationship with project Blue Book are annotated for the public record in considerable detail.

NIDS does NOT endorse or support Lt. Colonel Quintanilla’a opinions, biases, or judgments regarding any organizations or individuals mentioned in the manuscript, nor about the UFO phenomenon in general. Rather, our intent is to enter Lt. Col. Quintanilla’s thoughts, attitudes, and actions in his own words into the public record. In this way, the public will be free to judge for themselves the efficacy and serious lack thereof by Lt. Col Quintanilla of the taxpayer-funded investigations of the UFO phenomenon that were carried out by the United States Air Force during the period of 1963–1969. The public will be free to judge from Quintanilla’s own words whether the USAF investigation led by Quitanilla could objectively accomplish the mission it was asked to perform on behalf of American taxpayers.

Disclaimer

NIDS does NOT endorse the views espoused by Hector Quintanilla in this manuscript entitled “UFOs, an Air Force Dilemma” regarding the UFO phenomenon or regarding any individuals or organizations mentioned herein. The views are those of the author himself and are being presented by NIDS solely as a historical service to the public. NIDS assumes no liability or responsibility for any of the statements made in this manuscript.

“Tell The Truth and They Will Not Believe You” Hector Quintanilla, in a private video interview, December 1990

By Alex Chionetti

Just when I thought I was safe from “flying saucers” and field research investigations undertaken all over the Americas for over a decade, then as my life as an ufologist seemed over, a friend introduced me to Karl S. Quintanilla.

When that last name rang my ear, I asked trembling: Your father had something to do with the Air Force, more specifically with Project Blue Book? My friend responded yes.

I was hesitant to break my long sabbatical of having nothing more to do with the UFO phenomena. Didn’t take time to meet the son of Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, and in a few hours the manuscript you have before your eyes, fell into my hands. A real treasure for a young ufologist, more so for a researcher of Hispanic origin.

Prior to this, one of my mentors had been the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, with whom I collaborated in the founding of the Buenos Aires-based CUFOS branch, associated to the CIU (Comisión de Investigaciones Ufológicas), in the early eighties. Life was connecting me with his nemesis during the golden days of ufology and Project Blue Book. Dr. Hynek was a civilian consultant under the payroll of the Air Force. After many years of skepticism, he turned into the respected icon of scientific UFO research.

The confrontations between Hynek and Quintanilla were similar to the modern dialogues between Mulder and Scully of “The X Files,” as you will see in this manuscript.

That was during my first months in California, where the impact of the Mexican-American culture, the Chicano universe, was a fascinating mystery. And Hector Quintanilla was an outstanding representative of that culture.

He crossed the Rio Grande with his mother, his family were immigrants, part of the border flux, wetbacks. He arrived during one of the worst periods in the history of the Unites States, the Big Depression of 1929. But his determination and military vocation turned him into a proud soldier and physicist.

I remember having long conversations with him, in our native language Spanish. I remember asking him about Roswell, which was barely mentioned during his time. “Hangar 18,” he remarked, “I went but there was nothing else than an empty structure, nothing special, no little guys, no ships.” We talked about the Socorro Case, where we both shared frustrated experiences with Lonnie Zamora. The possibility that the Socorro craft was an experimental prototype of a lunar module stayed with him for more than two decades, but he could never prove it. He also told me it was Blue Book’s most important case, as you will see in his memoirs.

Naturally, we also talked about his confrontations with Hynek, and the classic “swamp gas” episode. “He was of great help when it was misidentifications with stars and planets, but he was not happy when Dr. Condon and the University of Colorado entered in scene,” continued Quintanilla. “Originally, I thought it was wrong to benefit financially from a book, but I wanted to share my knowledge and not let the information get lost.” The original title was UFO’s 20 Million Dollar Dilemma. But the most

important thing he said was that he thought he would be able to resolve the UFO mystery, he was confident enough of finding a scientific explanation.

Ten years ago he was still thinking that, “it’s hard for me to believe that our ancestors were visited by extraterrestrials if I cannot put the finger on a vehicle. At the present, we don’t conserve physical evidence. We can see or feel, concerning intelligent life as we are, when we should have the capacity of transportation through space from one point to the other.”

During the Second World War, Quintanilla went to school, and was drafted before finishing his freshman year. In the South Pacific theater, he was part of the 13th Air Force Squadron, and the 72nd Bombardier Unit. Back in school, he was recruited in January of 1946 as assistant in the “Air Force Security Service.” Just when he was finishing school, the Korean War was in full action.

During his last years, Quintanilla’s convictions toward the existence of the UFOs were hoping to find cases with more substance and information. For the last director of Project Blue Book, the “saucer shape was a configuration,” a creation of the printed media in the early sixties, which followed one after another.

Quintanilla’s bigger headache was the media, which always rushed in the moment of the press conferences, being more candid with the TV stations and networks. “The reporters always insisted I give the information before I finished the report, and then they put their own conclusions.” Quintanilla always told both to the press and to himself, “I’m trying to be honest in the investigation and in the report.”

Despite the lack of physical evidence, Quintanilla felt that “it was egotistical for men to think that the Creator of all the beauty existed solely for our benefit; there should be extraterrestrials or intelligence in one of those multitude of stars.”

With the closing of Project Blue Book, a classic chapter of the American and international ufology came to an end. After that, no officially funded organization investigated the UFO phenomena in America. With its

disappearance, many valuable experiences also departed, as almost no one took time in reviewing Blue Book when some of its cast and crew were still with us.

Ufology has now survived over fifty years of incomprehension by the authorities, the public, and the ufologists themselves. The media, on the other hand, has shifted from laughing to exploiting the phenomena as a bait to increase ratings and multiply profits, mostly in prime time and cable programming. The remembrance of seven years of Quintanilla's investigations is a lighthouse in the darkness, so much of it created by some modern mythologists of ufology who mistakenly put Blue Book in the bad boy's duffel bag.

Yet Quintanilla didn't believe in any kind of conspiracy behind his back: "Everybody gave me the fullest cooperation, nobody refused, from the high level agencies to top laboratories to which I requested for help." It is possible, however, that before his time previous directors kept different approaches or agendas.

Fortunately for researchers and aficionados, UFOs: An Air Force Dilemma has survived. It is a window to the past and a door to the future for all, especially for the younger generations of ufologists and scientists interested in the phenomena. Their cooperation is still urgently needed for advancing what is still a mystery in the 21st century.

Los Angeles, California, 2-5-2001

UFO’S: AN AIR FORCE DILEMMA

Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

USAF (ret.)

Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

UFO’S AN AIR FORCE DILEMMA

Proposal For A Book by

Lt. Colonel Hector Quintanilla, Jr. USAF (ret.)

Former Chief, Project Blue Book

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Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

Suggested title: “UFO’s—A $20,000,000 FIASCO”

Theme:

The behind-the-scenes story of an official Government project that cost the taxpayers $20,000,000, which tells why the project did not justify its cost.

Method:

Human-interest, anecdotal, and personalized: a dramatic portrait showing how Government machinery works behind-the-scenes when outside pressure is applied by the public.

The Story:

Project Blue Book, the world’s only official organization to keep watch on and analyze Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO’s), and how it stirred controversy both inside and outside the U.S. Air Force; its role in national defense and its misunderstood purpose; its history, critics, and friends; what it discovered.

Author’s Qualifications:

Chief of Project Blue Book for six and a half years, to the time it was discontinued after 20 years.

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DEDICATION

TO GENE, TESSIE, KARL, NANCY, DIANE, AND BOB. YOU ARE MY CONTRIBUTION FOR TOMORROW’S BETTER WORLD.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS

Contrary to popular belief, unidentified objects are not a new phenomenon. Historians have been recording the sightings of unidentified objects since before the coming of Christ. Phenomena associated with unidentified objects have been reported by witnesses on land, sea, and in the air. The Air Force was concerned with “Unidentified Flying Objects” (UFO’s) because of its responsibility in protecting our Air Space from foreign and alien powers.

The Air Force defined a UFO as “any flying object which the witness failed to identify to his satisfaction and was officially reported to the Air Force”. A UFO report required immediate action and was acted upon as soon as the witness reported his sighting to one of the Air Force bases within the continental limits of the United States. The U.S. Air Force did not investigate UFO’s which were sighted in Foreign Countries. Air Attaches stationed in foreign posts did not investigate foreign UFO sightings, however, as a matter of courtesy, they did forward newspaper and magazine articles of the interesting cases. These second and third hand reports are normally considered worthless for a proper and serious evaluation.

The modern era of UFO’s can be dated from 24 June, 1947, when a civilian pilot named Kenneth Arnold made some rather strange airborne observations. The national news media and a number of poetic authors played up the observation to such an extent that the public was left with the impression that our planet had been visited by unknown vehicles from outer space. It was the poetic authors who coined the term “Flying Saucer” in describing the vehicle’s aerodynamic configuration, and this term has been used synonymously with “Unidentified Flying Objects” ever since.

SUPERSONIC SAUCERS

On that fateful day, June 24, Kenneth Arnold was carrying out an intensive search over the beautiful airspace of Washington state. He was looking for a Marine transport that was reported to have crash landed somewhere on the southwest side of Mount Ranier. First he flew directly toward the mountain from the west at an altitude of approximately 9500 feet, searching all of the various ridges for the downed plane. Then he made a sweep back to the west, found nothing, and headed again toward Mount Ranier. The air was so smooth that he felt a real pleasure in flying; he trimmed out the aircraft and relaxed, admiring the crystal-clear sky and the terrain. There was a DC-4 in the area, however, it was to his left and to the rear at approximately 1400 feet.

Arnold had flown for about two or three minutes on this course when a bright flash reflected on his airplane. He could not find where the reflection had come from, but to the left, north of Mount Ranier, he did observe a chain of nine peculiar looking objects flying from north to south at approximately 9500 feet. They were approaching Mount Ranier very rapidly, and he at first assumed them to be jet aircraft. Every few seconds two or three of them would dip or change course slightly, so

as to catch the sun at an angle and reflect brightly. They were too far away from him to determine their shape or formation.

As they approached Mount Ranier, however, he observed their outline quite clearly —except that, oddly, he could not find their tails. He watched them pass the southern edge of Mount Ranier flying directly south-southeast down the hog's back of a range. Their elevation seemed to vary by as much as one thousand feet, but they remained very near the horizon, therefore, around his own elevation. They flew rather like geese, in a diagonal chain as though they were linked together. They seemed to maintain their orientation while swerving in and out of the high mountain peaks.

Arnold estimated the distance from him to the objects at approximately 25 miles. Using a Zeus fastener and a cowling tool, he estimated their size to be about two-thirds that of the DC-4. Watching them pass a high snow-covered ridge between Mount Ranier and Mount Adams, he saw that as the first object was leaving its south crest the last one was entering its northern crest. Later the length of this ridge, and therefore that of the chain of objects, was determined to be about five miles. Arnold timed their flights from Mount Ranier to Mount Adams, 47 miles at 1 minute 42 seconds, a speed of 1659 miles per hour.

The sighting, like most of those that were reported to the Air Force, was not reproducible for purposes of investigation; it involved uncontrollable atmospheric conditions and personal interpretations of distances which were subject to human error. The Air Force was left with one man's subjective interpretation of what he had experienced. Lucy Floyd, of the Air Technical Intelligence Center, was awakened on a Saturday morning at the ungodly hour of nine o'clock. She was requested to come to the Center and take the UFO information of Arnold's sighting over the telephone. Lucy's short hand wasn't up to par on that Saturday morning, but she struggled through it because the news media and the Pentagon wanted an instant evaluation. Lucy transcribed the information, however, an instant evaluation

was not forthcoming because there were too many gaps in the preliminary information which had been submitted to the ATIC.

Up to this point, the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC), had concerned itself with real technical intelligence problems dealing with our national security. Their engineers and scientists are top shelf and a very proud group. Little did they know, at the time that a pseudo scientific project was about to be dropped in their laps. I would admit that on a short term basis the ATIC was a good choice for project responsibilities, but on a long term basis it turned out to be a monumental headache for all its Commanders. Their impatience at certain times was justified, however, this attitude made it very difficult for the project officer's and at times it was just pure hell. With Lucy Floyd's telephone call began a series of events which would make ATIC Commanders cringe on hearing the term "Flying Saucers". The modern era of UFO sightings had begun and the ATIC had just laid the ground work for the evaluation of such sightings by accepting one telephone call. Of such circumstances, are projects made in the Air Force? Not hardly, but in this particular case it was the beginning of a $20,000,000 boondoggle.

Contrary to the biased criticism which the Air Force received in this case, it did everything possible to find an honest solution to this sighting. Arnold's report of his sighting was submitted to various scientific groups and invariably they concluded that the objects were probably the result of a

mirage. The smooth, crystal-clear air that he so ably noted indicated the very stable conditions which are associated with Inversions and a high index of refraction of the atmosphere. UFO buffs like to refer to this sighting as one of the classics, however, mirages and inversions are quite common and they can also be very exciting under certain emotional conditions.

Mr. Arnold and the UFO buffs have never accepted the Air Force's evaluation of this sighting and thousands of words have been written in support of their belief that our planet was and has been invaded by alien space ships from another Galaxy. A number of books have been written to support this theory, however, time and history have shown us that the followers of this philosophy were dreaming. It has been my experience that the true UFO buff is a dreamer and for parts of his day lives in a world of fantasy. It is unfortunate, but a number of these people have ceased to live in our real world. I bring this out, because I have had to deal with people from both extremes and this was a most difficult task.

Although Arnold's sighting and experience could not be reproduced, another phenomenon in some respects similar and observed in the same area found a satisfactory explanation. Navy Commander W.J. Young reported in November, 1948, that on several occasions he had seen reflections over the Willamette Valley and in the plains of eastern Washington and Oregon that could easily have been mistaken for flying discs. One striking example occurred over the Willamette Valley on a clear sunny day when the ever-present blue haze seemed somewhat thicker than usual. His aircraft was flying at altitudes between 1000 and 5000 feet when bright flying objects appeared, some on his beam and others on the bows or dead ahead. From time to time they would disappear and new ones would appear. Young finally determined that the objects which appeared to be discs at various altitudes were reflections of the sun from the aluminum roofs of farm buildings at great distances from his plane. The perspective of the land converging with the sky on the horizon, with limited ground

visibility, made it appear as though roof reflections were actually airborne at various altitudes in the haze. Thus one UFO sighting was solved by the observer himself. Although there is no uniform pattern among reported UFO phenomena, some characteristics of one may be found in others, as in Young's and Arnold's.

THE BEGINNING OF A $20,000,000 FIASCO—PROJECT SIGN

News media publicity of Arnold's flying saucers started an avalanche of other sightings. The Air Force began receiving flying saucer reports from people in all walks of life. Before December, 1947, no specific government organization was responsible for investigating and evaluating UFO sightings. Without any basis in measurable data or controlled experiment, the reported phenomena were variously assessed. Even within the military structure, UFO sightings were evaluated as being a new aerodynamic configuration, natural occurrences, misinterpretation of conventional objects, or to space ships under intelligent control. The military interest in these reports touched the fields of Air Defense, Research and Development, and Intelligence; responsibilities which were vested in many different organizations.

In our bureaucratic form of government, decisions made at intermediate levels sometimes have national impact. It is apparent that some such group within the old Air Material Command, now designated as the Air Force Logistics Command, expressed an opinion regarding “Flying Discs” which eventually was formulated into policy and which also caused the formation of a special project. I present the opinionated letter in its entirety so that the reader may follow chronologically the events which led to the formation of a special project which eventually cost the American taxpayer at least $20,000,000.

Subject: AMC Opinion Concerning “Flying Discs” 23 Sept 1947 To: Commanding General

Army Air Forces

Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: Brig. General George Schulgen

AC/AS-2

1. As requested by AC/AS-2 there is presented below the considered opinion of this Command concerning the so-called “Flying Discs”. This opinion is based on interrogation report data furnished by AC/AS-2 and preliminary studies by personnel of T-2 and Aircraft Laboratory, Engineering Division T-3. This opinion was arrived at in a conference between personnel from the Air Institute of Technology, Intelligence T-2, Office Chief of Engineering Division, and the Aircraft, Power Plant and Propeller Laboratories of Engineering Division T-3.

2. It is the opinion that:

a. The phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or

fictitious.

b. Three [sic] are objects probably approximating the shape of a disc, of such appreciable size as to appear to be as large as man-made aircraft.

c. There is a possibility that some of the incidents may be caused by natural phenomena, such as meteors.

d. The reported operating characteristics such as extreme rates of climb, maneuverability (particularly in a roll), and action which must be considered evasive when sighted or contacted by friendly aircraft and radar, lend belief to the possibility that some of the objects are controlled either manually, automatically, or remotely.

e. The apparent common description of objects is as follows:

(1) Metallic or light reflecting surface.

(2) Absence of trail, except in a few instances when the object apparently was operating under high performance conditions. (3) Circular or elliptical in shape, flat on bottom and domed on top.

(4) Several reports of well kept formation flights varying from three to nine objects.

(5) Normally no associated sound, except in three instances a substantial rumbling roar was noted.

(6) Level flight speeds normally above 300 knots are estimated.

g. Any developments in this country along the lines indicated would be extremely expensive, time consuming and at the considerable expense of current projects and therefore, if directed, should be set up independently of existing projects.

h. Due consideration must be given the following:

(1) The possibility that these objects are of domestic origin—the

product of some high security project not known to AC/AS -2

or this Command.

Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

(2) The lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects.

(3) The possibility that some foreign nation has a form of propulsion possibly nuclear; which is outside of our domestic knowledge.

3. It is recommended that :

a. Headquarters, Army Air Forces issues a directive assigning a priority, security classification and Code Name for a detailed study of this matter to include the preparation of complete sets of all available and pertinent data which will then be made available to the Army, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission, JRDB, the Air Force Scientific Advisory Group, NACA, and the RAND and NEPA projects for comments and recommendations, with a preliminary report to be forwarded within 15 days of receipt of the data and a detailed report thereafter every 30 days as the investigation develops. A complete interchange of data should be effected.

4. Awaiting a specific directive AMC will continue the investigation within its current resources in order to more closely define the nature of the phenomenon. Detailed Essential Elements of Information will be formulated immediately for transmittal thru channels.

N.F. TWINING

Lieutenant General, U.S.A. Commanding

To end the confusion of multi-organizations involving themselves in the investigation of the UFO, Major General L.C. Craigie, Director of Research and Development directed the Commanding General of the Air Material Command to establish a project whose mission was to collect, collate, evaluate, and distribute within the government all information concerning sightings which could be construed as of concern to the national security. The letter was dated 30 December, 1947, and carried a security classification of Secret. The letter was subsequently declassified. The letter also assigned a priority of 2A, a security classification of “restricted” and a Code Name of “Sign” to this special project. I think it is important, because of subsequent events, to bring out that the security classification of “restricted” was the lowest security classification which could be assigned to a special project. It should also interest the reader to know that Code Names are normally one word designators and carry a security classification, while nick names are normally two words and are not classified.

The Commanding General of AMC issued Technical Instruction Nr 2185, dated 11 February 1948, and assigned responsibility of project SIGN to the Air Technical Intelligence Center. The ATIC immediately began to organize the project and established the communications necessary to collect and investigate the UFO reports from throughout the United States. In talking to some of the old timers that are still around, such as I.H. Herman, Nick Post, V.D. Bryant, Dr. Miley, and Francis Arcier, I get the impression that not all of them were sold on the project, but they had been given a task to do and they went all out to accomplish the mission.

Project SIGN accomplished and completed its task in February, 1949. It had thoroughly analyzed and evaluated 243 cases which had been submitted to the project office. The bound

document was small, but thorough and comprehensive. The report was classified Secret at the start, but was declassified a short time later.

Project SIGN concluded that:

No definite and conclusive evidence is yet available that would prove or disprove the existence of these unidentified objects as real aircraft of unknown and unconventional configuration. It is unlikely that positive proof of their existence will be obtained without examination of the remains of crashed objects. Proof of non-existence is equally impossible to obtain unless a reasonable and convincing explanation is determined for each incident.

Many sightings b y qualified and apparently reliable witnesses have been reported. However, each incident has unsatisfactory features, such as shortness of time under observation, distance from observer, vagueness of description, or photographs, inconsistencies between individual observers, and lack of descriptive data, that prevents definite conclusions from being drawn. Explanations, of some of the incidents revealed the existence of simple and easily understandable causes, so that there is the possibility that enough incidents can be solved to eliminate or greatly reduce the mystery associated with these occurrences.

Evaluation of reports of unidentified objects is a necessary activity of military intelligence agencies. Such sightings are inevitable, and under wartime conditions rapid and convincing solutions of such occurrences are necessary to maintain morale of military and civilian personnel. In this respect, it is considered that the establishment of procedures and training of personnel is in itself worth the effort expended on this project.

It is also recommended that:

Future activity on this project should be carried on at the minimum level necessary to record, summarize, and evaluate the data received on future reports and to command if a sufficient number of incidents are solved to indicate that these sightings do not represent a threat to the security of the nation, the assignment of special project status to the activity could be terminated. Future investigations of reports would then be handled on a routine basis like any other intelligence work.

Reporting agencies should be impressed with the necessity for getting more factual evidence on sightings, such as photographs, physical evidence, radar sightings, and data on size and shape. Personnel sighting such objects should engage the assistance of others, when possible, to get more definite data. For example, military pilots should notify neighboring bases by radio of the presence and direction of flight of an unidentified object so that other observers, in flight or on the ground, could assist in its identification.

By today's standards the Project Sign report would have been unacceptable as far as publishing a bound document is concerned. The report is small, poorly typed, and the individual pages are of a very low grade quality paper. The report doesn't look like much, but its contents are informative and some of the conclusions expressed by the report are still valid today. The report had very little impact, pro or con, in government agencies and the pursuit of the UFO became a legitimate full time government job for a number of USAF officers and enlisted men who were involuntarily appointed to those positions by their immediate superiors. The die had been cast and UFO's would be a USAF stigma for the next 21 years. It began with a small office at Wright -Patterson Air Force Base, and within a few short years the lines of communication would extend to every Air Force Base within the continental limits of the United States.

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Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

PROJECT GRUDGE

Project SIGN was terminated after it had submitted its report. The conclusions of SIGN were widely distributed amongst government agencies. Although SIGN found no evidence to support the FLYING SAUCER theory, the project was continued under a new code name, “GRUDGE”. The code name was changed on 16 December 1948. Project GRUDGE continued the operations of SIGN except that the personnel in GRUDGE relied heavily on the work of university scientists and other outside consultants, as well as the USAF Air Weather Service and the U.S. Weather Bureau. During the period of GRUDGE the project officer was Lt. H.W. Smith who is now a full Colonel stationed in Europe. His number one assistant was George W. Towles who is still with the organization, but has been employed in another capacity since the report was submitted. The report is a voluminous document one and one half inches thick and contains summaries of each one of the cases that was analyzed and evaluated. These cases were evaluated and are individually discussed by: Dr. J.A. Hynek, who was then an Astronomer at Ohio State University; Dr. G.E. Valley, from the Scientific Advisory Board; Dr. P.M. Fitts, Psychologist at the Aero Medical Laboratory; Mr. J.E. Lipp, of the Rand Corporation; and the USAF Weather Service. General Harold E. Watson was the Commanding Officer of ATIC during this period and he accepted the GRUDGE report in August of 1949. The report was classified Secret and it was not until August 1, 1952, that it was declassified. It was declassified, according to existing regulations, by Captain Edward Ruppett who was then Chief of the project office.

Project GRUDGE concluded that:

1.

2.

Evaluation of reports of unidentified flying objects to date demonstrate that these flying objects constitute no direct threat to the national security of the United States.

Reports of unidentified flying objects are the result of:

a. b. c.

d.

Misinterpretation of various conventional objects.

A mild form of mass hysteria or “war nerves”.

Individuals who fabricate such reports to perpetrate a hoax or to seek publicity.

Psychopathological persons.

3.

Planned release of unusual aerial objects coupled with the release of related psychological propaganda could cause mass hysteria.

[LOST DATA BOTTOM PAGE 12.]

enemy would yield similar results.

Project GRUDGE recommended:

1.

That the investigation and study of reports of unidentified flying objects be reduced in

scope.

a.

That current collection directives relative to unidentified flying objects be revised to provide for the submission of only those reports clearly indicating realistic technical applications.

2.

3.

That Conclusions 1 and 2 of this report, with sufficient supporting data, be declassified and made public in the form of an official press release.

That psychological Warfare Division and other governmental agencies interested in psychological warfare be informed of the results of this study.

a. That such agencies coordinate in and provide further recommendations for

public release of material as recommended in Para. 2 above.

In spite of the fact that GRUDGE recommended that the investigations of UFO's be reduced in scope, there are definite indications that the project expanded. The soothing conclusions of Project GRUDGE caused very little comment, nevertheless, the fringe groups that still believed in extraterrestrial visitation was growing with the popularity of science fiction articles and magazines. In December, 1951, GRUDGE let a contract to a reputable industrial firm for a detailed study of all the UFO cases on file. The firm used its top-notch engineering personnel and scientific consultants in evaluating all of the Air Force UFO reports. The study took three years to complete. It was during the time that the study was in progress that the Air Force decided to change the project code name from GRUDGE to the nick name "Blue Book."

PROJECT BLUE BOOK

"Blue Book" came into its own in March, 1952, and the nick name stayed with the project until it was terminated on 29 December 1969 (or 70?). When the Air Force designated the project with a nick name, it also declassified the project's special security classification.

During the early phase of Project Blue Book (1952-1954), it attracted a public relations aspect that remained with it until its termination. This came about through a national interest in reported sightings, science-fiction publications of alleged contacts with visitors form outer space, formation of pseudo-scientific organizations, hobby clubs, and self-appointed individuals who investigated UFO sightings. The radar sightings in Washington D.C. during July 1952, tended to give substance to UFO reports. News coverage during this period was extremely high and poetic authors with imaginative minds were busy grinding out books and articles on UFO's. A few representative titles which appeared during that time are: THE COMING OF THE SAUCERS; SPACE, GRAVITY, AND THE FLYING SAUCER; IS ANOTHER WORLD WATCHING?; THE FLYING SAUCERS ARE REAL; FLYING SAUCERS FROM OUTER SPACE; and FLYING SAUCERS COME FROM A DISTANT WORLD. Flying saucer watching became a popular hobby and numerous UFO clubs were formed throughout the country. At one time, I listed eighty-one such clubs paying dues in the United States. Most of these clubs were small and were organized at the community level. They met periodically and at these meetings discussed their UFO experiences. Among this group of eighty-one UFO hobby clubs is one national club which I'll discuss later.

THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL OF 1953

It had become fashionable in the early fifties to accuse the Air Force of censorship or of withholding UFO information from the public. It was because of these accusations, that a Blue Ribbon

panel was appointed to make an authoritive evaluation of the UFO phenomena. The panel was appointed and subsequently met in January, 1953. This panel, which was composed of civilian scientists holding positions outside the government, was well known and respected. This scientific Advisory Panel was chaired by Dr. H.P. Robertson, Chairman, California Institute of Technology. The other members of the panel were: Dr. Luis W. Alvarez, University of California; Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner, Associated Universities, Inc.; Dr. S.A. Goudsmit, Brookhaven National Laboratories; and Dr. Thornton Page, Johns Hopkins University. All of these gentlemen held the highest credentials in their field of expertise.

The panel met in Washington D.C. during the week of 14-18 January, 1953. Special briefings and all UFO records were made available to this select group. Members selected unique and interesting UFO reports for their in-depth study. After three days of tedious briefings, reviews, discussions, consultations, and serious study, the panel completed its report and issued their statement, which later became public. One of the members of the panel remarked to me, that if they had anticipated that the complete report would some day be made public, they would have spent more time with the final wording of the report. As it was, some parts of the report were sort of rough, however, it was considered adequate for inter-governmental distribution. Some critics of the report made an issue of the final wording, done for the sake of receiving free publicity and also to detract from the conclusions which were reached by the panel. Their conclusions were as follows:

REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS—17 January 1953

1.

2.

The Panel of Scientific Consultants has met to evaluate any possible threat to national security posed by Unidentified Flying Objects (“Flying Saucers”), and to make recommendations thereon. The Panel has received the evidence as presented by cognizant intelligence agencies, primarily the Air Technical Intelligence Center, and has reviewed a selection of the best documented incidents.

As a result of its considerations, the Panel concludes: That the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.

We firmly believe that there is no residuum of cases which indicates phenomena which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts, and that there is no evidence that the phenomena indicate a need for the revision of current scientific concepts.

3.

In order most effectively to strengthen the national facilities for the timely recognition and the appropriate handling of true indications of hostile action, and to minimize the concomitant dangers alluded to above, the Panel recommends:

That the national security agencies take immediate steps to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired.

We suggest that this aim may be achieved by an integrated program designed to reassure the public of the total lack of evidence of inimical forces behind the phenomena, to train personnel to recognize and reject false indications quickly and effectively, and to strengthen regular channels for the evaluation of and prompt reaction to true indications of hostile measures.

The short statement which was issued by the panel at the conclusion of their study, did not indicate the amount of work or the number of man-hours spent in accomplishing their task. The conclusion reached by the panel was no different than those reached by other groups who had seriously studied the UFO problem. Up to this time, the program had been treated as some sort of plague by the Intelligence community. However, after the panel issued its statement, the Pentagon decided to publicly acknowledge its problems with the UFO program. It was during this period that the program slowly started to acquire a public relations aspect which lasted until its termination.

THE CIA CLASSIFIES THE REPORT

At this time I would like to point out that the panel's complete report was classified up until March 1967. It was a hell of a battle getting the CIA to declassify the report. How the CIA got involved in the UFO problem is still a mystery to me. It appears that some CIA members attended the special briefings given to the panel and the recorder mentioned their position within the organization. Because sensitive positions were mentioned in the report, the CIA classified the document. I read the report numerous times and I couldn't see any reason why the document should have stayed classified after so many years. I decided to stay within channels and yet the report declassified. The report was a "hot potato" because of its classification and not because of its contents. I convinced Lt. Col. Robert Hippler of the Office of Science and Technology, my contact on the Air Staff, to use the power of the Air Staff to get the report declassified. Sara Hunt, of The Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information, offered her help from that level. The CIA would not consent to declassifying the report initially, but we weren't to be denied. Hippler was dogmatic and he followed the initial requests with repeated requests. The CIA finally consented to our requests for declassification with the condition that certain names of individuals and internal organizations be deleted from the report. These names and internal

organizations neither added nor detracted from the completed report so we agreed.

It took us months to finally get the report declassified. We talked, we corresponded, we met, we discussed, we telephoned, we convinced our superiors, and finally the CIA conceded after we compromised. The majority of the credit for declassifying the report should go to Robert Hippler. The Panel Report is now available to the public for a fixed fee.

Here again, the amount of work and man-hours spent in getting the report declassified would amaze millions of people. Some individuals within our government structure refuse to bend or to change and these “jellyfish” cause other members of the government numerous headaches and a tremendous amount of extra work.

When the Scientific Panel report was declassified, it did not cause the CIA any embarrassment and the truth of the matter is that the Air Force enjoyed a favorable press; because we had managed to hurdle another obstacle in the pursuit of the truth with regards to the elusive UFO.

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Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

THE PROJECT CONTINUES

Why the Air Force continued to investigate UFO sightings after Dr. Robertson issued his report is still puzzling to me. The SIGN and GRUDGE reports which had been completed earlier indicated that UFO's were not a threat to our security and that available evidence indicated that this was not a new phenomena. Among the old timers, opinion seemed to be divided as to why a determined effort was not made to cancel the UFO project after Dr. Robertson completed his report. After taking everything into consideration, I have the feeling that inertia was lacking in the Project Office at the time. People were running around the country investigating UFO sightings and they never had time to sit back and examine the project objectively. This was back in the days when UFO investigating officers had a B-25 at their disposal which enabled them to react immediately to UFO sightings that were called in to the ATIC. I have examined the available correspondence of this period and there is no indication that anyone made a determined effort to cancel the UFO project. Everyone just seemed to react and this attitude persisted in the project for many years. If the Air Force had cancelled the project in 1953, the American taxpayer would have been saved at least $15,000,000, which to me is a hell of a lot of money!

The panel had recommended that the national security agencies take immediate steps to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status which they had been given and to remove the aura of mystery which the project had unfortunately acquired. It was because of this recommendation that a special office was established within the OFFICE OF INFORMATION at the Air Force Secretary's level. It's primary function was to answer questions from the public and periodically, as requested, release UFO information to the Communications Media. Throughout the years, the responsibility for releasing UFO information to the public has remained with the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Information (SAFOI).

UFOs: An Air Force Dilemma

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SPECIAL REPORT #14

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It was late in 1954 that the special UFO report was finished and published. The report is commonly referred to as Special Report Number 14, because the first 13 reports were administrative progress reports which dealt mostly with fiscal matters. It was released under ATIC cover, however, all of the work was done by engineers, scientists, and consultants, who were not connected with the ATIC. The truth of the matter is that the report was compiled by one of the most reputable firms in this country. Their scientific and engineering qualifications were without a doubt the best that could be found in any organization. All of the work which was done on Special Report #14 was done on their premises by their own people. The project people traveled frequently from ATIC to their location for conferences and consultations. It would be easy for me to give you the name of this most prestigious organization, but it would serve no purpose, and in the end it would certainly do them more harm than good. I am honor bound not to release their name and I intend to keep my promise.

The report evaluated all the UFO data available at Air Technical Intelligence Center. The report is comprehensive, detailed, readable, well done, and technically suitable for research. It contains graphs showing the frequency distribution of sightings by time, date, location, shape, color, duration, azimuth, and elevation. All of the information recorded in the UFO files was broken down into meaningful and essential information. The information was punched on IBM cards and then manipulated accordingly. From the information on the cards, an attempt was made to build a model of a typical UFO. The result was that instead of one model, the report ended up with 13 models. The ultimate conclusion was that UFO’s come in all sizes, shapes, and colors.

Although the report was finished in 1954, it was not publicly released until May 5, 1955. I have not been able to find out what caused the delay, however, I suspect that it was poor and inefficient staffing. General Sanford held a news conference at the Pentagon on May 5, 1955, and released Special Report Number 14 to the Communications Media. Seventy-five

reports were distributed to the Communications Media. It's findings were well received, however, the project continued on and on and on…

A synopsis of the conclusions of Special Report Number 14 are as follows:

EXTRACT FROM SPECIAL REPORT #14, RELEASE DATE: 5 May 55

CONCLUSIONS

"It can never be absolutely proven that "flying saucers" do not exist. This would be true of the data obtained were to include complete scientific measurements of the attributes of each sighting, as well as complete and detailed descriptions of the objects sighted. It might be possible to demonstrate the existence of "flying saucers" with data of this type, IF they were to exist.

Although the reports considered in this study usually did not contain scientific measurements of the attributes of each sighting, it was possible to establish certain valid conclusions by the application of statistical methods in the treatment of the data. Scientifically evaluated and arranged, the data as a whole did not show any marked patterns or trends. The inaccuracies inherent in this type of data, in addition to the incompleteness of a large proportion of the reports, may have obscured any patterns or trends that otherwise would have been evident. This absence of indicative relationships necessitated an exhaustive study of selected facets of the data in order to draw any valid conclusions.

A critical examination of the distributions of the important characteristics of sightings, plu s an intensive study of the sightings evaluated as UNKNOWN, led to the conclusion that a combination of factors, principally the reported maneuvers of the objects and the unavailability of supplemental data such as aircraft flight plans or balloon-launching records, resulted in the failure to identify as KNOWNS most of the reports of objects classified as UNKNOWNS.

An intensive study, aimed at finding a verified example of a “flying saucer” or at deriving a verified model or models of “flying saucers” (as defined on page 1), led to the conclusion that neither goal could be attained using the present data.

It is e mphasized that there was a complete lack of any valid evidence of physical matter in any case of a reported unidentified aerial object.

Thus, the probability that any of the UNKNOWNS considered in this study are “flying saucers” is concluded to be extremely small, since the most complete and reliable reports from the present data, when isolated and studied, conclusively failed to reveal even a rough model, and since the data as a whole failed to reveal any marked patterns or trends.

Therefore, on the basis of this evaluation of the information, it is considered to be highly improbably that any of the reports of unidentified aerial objects examined in this study represent observations of technological developments outside the range of present-day scientific knowledge.”

The report was a project officer’s dream, but as it turned out, it really served no purpose. Here was a means to an end, but someone fumbled the ball and again an opportunity was missed to terminate the project.

ATIC GOOFED

After Special Report Number 14 was released to the public, General White had suggested that total responsibility of the UFO Program be turned over to a contractor. There were indications that serious and careful consideration was given to this proposal, however, the alternate proposals offered by the ATIC indicate that someone was reluctant to get rid of the program. General White wanted to reduce the load placed on the Air Force by the UFO Program and his concern was perfectly valid. The alternate proposals offered by the ATIC on 7 July 1955 were as follows:

(a) That the Air Force Information Office issue a news release and state the following:

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

That Air Force experience of UFO reports, during a period of seven years, gives no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to the national security.

That undue emphasis on the reports of such phenomena interferes with the proper functioning of our Air Defense measures.

That the Air Force has a policy of continuing watchfulness for and thorough analysis of apparently unexplainable UFO sightings; and

That for the purpose of divesting UFO’s of the aura of mystery which they have unfortunately acquired, the entire subject has been completely declassified.

The second paragraph of the alternate proposals was the crux of the whole letter. It goes as follows:

2.

The considerations behind the alternate measures which we had suggested above are involved, but we believe, compelling. The principal one, no doubt, is the fact that complete reliance on a contractor, were this possible, would not, in

our experience, reduce the responsibility of and therefore the load carried by the Air Force. Neither would it save Air Force personnel or the Service the embarrassment occasioned by unscrupulous individuals who see in the subject an opportunity of abusing the Air Force while serving their own ends, be they personal gain or subversion.

Here again was another opportunity to get rid of the program or at least divorce it from the Intelligence Community, but someone really dropped the ball. Someone within the ATIC sold General Watson a bill of goods and he bought it hook, line, and sinker. I'm not sure who these individuals were, but the fact remains that no other Commander was ever given the opportunity to rid himself of the project the way General Watson was. I'm not sure that I have the right to criticize General Watson for this decision, because I understand that he was a straight arrow and a hell of a good commander. He must have been a very compassionate man, because the reply to General White's proposal indicates that he had an idiot on his staff.

THE AIR FORCE UFO REGULATION

It's quite apparent that the Pentagon bought the proposal, and the UFO program continued under the auspices of the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC). It amazes me, but it doesn't surprise me, that some people just don't like to rock the boat. Back when the program started, there was a valid reason for studying UFO's within an intelligence agency. At the beginning, there was sincere concern that maybe a foreign power was penetrating our air space with a new and superior weapons system designed as a disc or saucer. SIGN, GRUDGE, THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL, and SPECIAL REPORT NUMBER 14, all concluded that the intelligence community's basic concern was not valid. The Soviets were not penetrating our air space with a new aerodynamic configuration; hell, they were just as confused about the UFO phenomena as we were. I'm sure they were looking to us for a solution to this problem. It should have been apparent to many people then, that the UFO program didn't belong in intelligence

channels. This became apparent to many people years later. In the meantime, the Air Force took one hell of a beating from self-styled UFO experts, UFO Hobby Clubs, and poetic authors. One of the reasons the Air Force took a beating was that detractors often referred to Air Force Regulation 200-2. This regulation outlines the objectives, scope, responsibilities, and procedures of the UFO program. In 1953, the Air Force recognized the need for a regulation; because up to that time, the program had been operating under the authority of administrative and technical letters. The regulation standardized the procedures of investigation and also the reports submitted to the Central Office. The objectives of the program were very simple and are as follows:

To determine if UFO phenomena present a threat to the security of the United States. To determine if UFO phenomena exhibit any technological advances which could be

channeled into U.S. research and development.

To explain or identify the stimuli which caused the observer to report a UFO.

This regulation has always been unclassified and has always been made available to the news media, but the detractors and critics always harped on the fact that the “200 Series” is reserved for Intelligence. They failed to realize that the Intelligence Community has the best communications facilities available; therefore, if you want to transmit your information rapidly, then use your Intelligence channels. It really didn’t matter whether the Air Force had an excellent collecting and evaluating UFO system, the critics were going to have a field day; because the only way for them to survive was to criticize the program’s personnel, system, and methods. The regulation turned out to be a good one, and it did the job it was designed to do.

Much has been said about the Air Force’s alleged secret reporting procedures, which in reality is pure hogwash. There were two official reporting formats and procedures for reporting UFO’s. The first one was the CIRVIS REPORTING PROCEDURES, which is part of COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES III-55. These instructions are unclassified and have been made available to news media representatives. The first four parts of the instructions are as follows:

I.

CIRVIS

United States/Canadian Military Communications Instructions for reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Aircraft to extend the early warning coverage for the Air Defense of the United States and Canada, their territories and possessions.

II.

WHO REPORTS

A. Pilots of all U.S. and Canadian scheduled and non-scheduled air carriers and other civil aircraft.

B. U.S and Canadian military aircraft except when the purpose of CIRVIS is

achieved by other reporting procedures established by the appropriate Command Headquarters.

III.

HOW AND WHEN TO REPORT

A. The procedures used by aircraft in calling the ground stations will be similar to those used when transmitting position reports except the call will be preceded by the world CIRVIS (pronounced SUR VEES) spoken three (3) times to clear the frequency(ies) over all other communications, except DISTRESS, URGENCY, and SAFETY.

B. Should the instance occur, where the above procedure fails to clear the frequency(ies) the international Urgency signal “XXX” transmitted three (3) times or “Pan” spoken three (3) times will be employed as an alternate signal.

C. CIRVIS reports should be transmitted in plain language to any of the following U.S. or Canadian communications facilities, as appropriated, for the aircraft making the report:

1. FAA or DOT Stations

2. Company or AIRNIC Stations 3. Military Airways or other Military Stations

D. Report at any time over international waters and territory under control of

the United States or Canada. CIRVIS reports will not be transmitted by radio while over foreign territory, other than Greenland or Iceland, but will be transmitted as soon as practicable upon leaving foreign territorial boundaries. Canada and the United States are not considered foreign territory for either country for the purpose of CIRVIS Communications.

IV.

WHAT TO REPORT

A. Report immediately by radio except when on foreign territory:

1. Hostile or unidentified single aircraft or formations of aircraft which appear to be directed against the United States, Canada, or their forces.

2. Missiles.

3. Unidentified Flying Objects.

4. Hostile or unidentified group(s) of Military surface vessels.

As one can see, the procedures are straight forward and were designed for a specific task. The fact UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS are to be reported surprises some people, but it shouldn’t really. Our Air Defense

forces are constantly alert and they are ready to take immediate action. During my six and one half years as Project Officer, I received very few CIRVIS reports. I would say that twenty would be a good figure. I checked all of these reports thoroughly, and all of them turned out to be missile firings from Vandenburg AFB or surface vessel firings in the Pacific. Airline pilots sometimes express concern over the missile firings and their concern is valid. I have seen a number of reports where pilots have described erratic and momentary inoperation of their panel instruments. Fortunately, this is only momentary and occurs only for a few seconds. The CIRVIS report that stands out in my mind occurred a few years ago and was submitted to us by a Flying Tigers crew flying from Aickam, Hawaii to Travis AFB, California. The crew was two hours out of Travis at sunrise and they reported that to their right they could see a missile rising out of the Pacific Ocean. My first reaction was that a submarine was firing missiles in the Pacific so I called the operations officer at Point Magu, California. No one else had reported anything like a UFO over the Pacific, so I thought the submarine angle was it, but the OPS officer at Point Magu sure deflated my balloon in a hurry. He advised me that no submarine or surface vessels were firing in the Pacific. I told him that it had to be, because I'd just received a report and he cut me short, "sorry, Quint, it's not one of ours". I went to my map and plotted the course of the Flying Tigers Aircraft. I shook my head, told myself that it couldn't be. Vandenburg was over 1200 miles from the Aircraft's position, however, I decided to check it out just the same. I asked my secretary, Marilyn Stancombe, to get me the OPS Officer at Vandenburg. It was early in the morning so there was no problem getting through on the Watts line. I maintained good relations and rapport with all my contacts because without them the program was dead. I got the OPS Officer and he turned me over to the Range Officer. I told him about the report and immediately he told me that they had fired a missile at Sunrise that morning. I couldn't believe it and he couldn't believe it, but the direction of the sighting and the times fit perfectly. The atmospheric and weather

conditions had been perfect for such a sighting. By the time I had finished checking all the details, the crew had already left Travis AFB, so I never did get to tell them exactly what they had observed.

Another method of reporting UFO's is through MERINT. The format and procedures of MERINT are almost identical to CIRVIS. In fact, both MERINT and CIRVIS are part of JANAP 146(D) whose title is CANADIAN-UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING VITAL INTELLIGENCE SIGHTS (CIRVIS/MERINT). This unclassified document was issued by the Joint Chief of Staff on February ___, 1959. During my tour of duty, I received only one MERINT report and it turned out to be the first stage of a missile which had been fired from Vandenburg and which had failed to sink. I decided to leave this problem with the Navy. I didn't want to usurp their prerogatives and besides I didn't have any surface vessels at my disposal for retrieval purposes.

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Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

THE AIR FORCE UFO PROGRAM

UFOs: An Air Force Dilemma

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I have often been asked by students and the Communications Media, how the Air Force collects, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates information regarding UFO's. The techniques for doing all of these things are outlined in AFR 200-2, which was later changed to AFR 80-17. The change took place in _____, because it was felt that the UFO phenomena was no longer an intelligence problem, therefore, the reports should be handled through Research and Development channels. Not everyone agreed with this philosophy, but Bob Hippler, my energetic contact on the Air Staff, came through like a champ again. He staffed the revised regulation through the Pentagon with an "80 series" number and it was no problem for me to convince my superiors that this was the route to take. The "80 series" numbers are reserved for Research and Development regulations. The revisions were not many, but they were meaningful and clarified a few points which had been criticized by some of our detractors. Changing the regulation from the Intelligence Series to the Research and Development series didn't stop our critics, they just found something else to complain about. What the hell, the only way they could get their names in the newspapers was to chastise the Air Force. I asked these jokers again and again for a better plan than what the Air Force had and to this day I have not seen one that was worth a damn. The Air Force wasn't perfect, but we had an organization that functioned with precision. No UFO Hobby Club can make that statement.

The general public doesn't realize to what extent the Air Force committed itself once it received a UFO report. It is true that our project office at Wright-Patterson AFB only had a complement of two officers, one sergeant, and one civilian stenographer. The initial investigation of all UFO sightings was therefore undertaken by the UFO investigating officer of the Air Force Base nearest the reported sighting. Air Force Regulation 200-2 and its successor 80-17 dictated that each Base Commander must appoint a UFO investigating officer. After the Base UFO officer conducted his initial investigation, he submitted his report to the project office at Wright-Patterson. Many sightings were explained at the Base level, however, many

were not and the project office would immediately start its second phase of the investigation. We would either visit the witness personally, talk to the witness via telephone, or request further information through one of our standard UFO Questionnaires. All UFO sightings fall into categories, the major ones being Astronomical Aircraft, Balloon, Satellites, and Other. The OTHER category has such causes as: hoaxes, hallucinations, unreliable reports, inversions, ground lights, clouds, contrails, chaff, birds, radar analysis, photo analysis, physical specimens, and satellite decay. The project office would proceed with its investigation according to the category of the sighting. Although our office complement was small, I had at my disposal professional experts from all scientific disciplines. Wright - Patterson has the best Materials Laboratory in the world and on at least ten different occasions they have analyzed, for the project office, physical specimens which were allegedly left behind by space travelers. Most of these turned out to be hoaxes and they were usually the most expensive sightings to investigate. On a number of occasions, I was crucified because I labeled certain sightings as hoaxes. I always believe in calling a spade a spade, but sometimes in my position this became extremely difficult. What most critics didn’t realize at the time was that I had good evidence or good reason to label a sighting a hoax. Every sighting that I labeled a

hoax turned out to be just that from the very beginning or was subsequently proven to have been perpetrated by an individual. There are cases still in Air Force files which I suspect are hoaxes, however, when evidence pointed in this direction I usually stopped the investigation in order to conserve my resources. I said usually, because on a few occasions I was compelled to continue the investigation because of political or news media pressure.

The sightings which fell into one of the major categories were routinely checked. For routine astronomical sightings we consulted with Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Astrophysicist of the Dearborn Observatory. For suspected Meteor sightings we frequently consulted with Dr. Charles P. Olivier, who at one time before his retirement, was head of the American Meteor Society. For suspected aircraft sightings we contacted the Federal Aviation Agency offices, local airports, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, and Headquarters Air Defense Command. In suspected balloon sightings, we contacted local airports, local weather stations, the U.S. Weather Bureau, Holloman AFB Balloon Control Center, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, General Mills, Raven Industries, Sea Space Systems, and colleges and universities conducting balloon research. For satellite sightings we used the printed Echo schedules, NASA Satellite reports, the Smithsonian North and South Equatorial Crossing, and the professional services of the Space Detection Center. For suspected missile observations we went directly to Cape Kennedy, Vandenburg AFB, Point Magu, Wallops Island, Eglin AFB, Holloman AFB, and Green River. For radar analysis I have used the services of Mr. V.D. Bryant of the Foreign Technology Division. He has provided the project office with some excellent evaluations. For photo analysis I have used one of our internal organizations, however, on a few occasions we have used the Kodak Company in Rochester, N.Y.. For physical specimens we have called upon the Air Force Materials Laboratory, Battelle Memorial Institute, the Food and Drug Administration, Libby Owens, Corning Glass, The Institute of Paper Industry, and the Northwestern Geology Department.

Numerous other individuals and organizations have helped the project office from time to time. Dr. Donald Menzel, who authored “The World of Flying Saucers” has helped me on some very ticklish cases. I consider Menzel to be a true scientist and not a publicity grabbing charlatan. Philip J. Klass, who wrote “UFO’s-IDENTIFIED” offered the project office a number of UFO cases that turned out to be beauties. I consider Klass to be an excellent investigator. Neither one of these gentlemen has ever asked for one cent of payment and yet, these men have produced work of the highest caliber. It’s also true that no government agency or industrial group ever refused me assistance whenever I needed it.

As previously indicated, UFO sightings are classified according to the suspected real event that gave rise to each report. Some of the characteristics of these different categories are discussed in the following paragraphs.

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UFO CATEGORIES

CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

Regularly scheduled airliners fly in air corridors, and are controlled by the FAA. Lighting will be typically red and green wing lights with a rotating beacon. They use landing lights on take off as well and in the landing pattern. Sighting report may include the illusion of hovering or of a stationary period if the aircraft is in a turn or approaching the observer. Total duration should be consistent with flight maneuvers, not likely to exceed five minutes unless some series of maneuvers is being performed. Landing lights, blotting out the red and green flashing lights, is often reported as a single light at night. Experimental and unusual lighting effects can vary with the lighting configuration of each aircraft. Color most often reported as white can be red. Objects reported in straight flight at certain altitudes can be checked against local flight corridors. The FAA can also be checked if there remains doubt that an object is an aircraft or if positive identification of a specific flight is required. There may or may not be sound associated with the visual effect reported.

Private or non-scheduled flights have the same characteristics in general. Speeds may be slower and duration a few minutes longer. Altitudes are usually lower. No sound is associated with the aircraft if the wind is blowing away from the observer. Duration should not exceed seven or eight minutes unless maneuvers are in progress. Normally flight is cleared from some local airport and not carried on radar through the FAA. This type of flight/aircraft is the most difficult to positively identify. Local airports are not noted for keeping excellent records on private aircraft.

JET

Airlines and high-altitude missions are similar to conventional flights in visual characteristics with the following exceptions:

(1) The color is most often reported as red. (2) No sound is associated with the object. (3) Flight is usually straight or with one turn. (4) Duration is about three to five minutes. The FAA has designated air corridors for these flights.

Special low-level military missions are flown at 2,000 feet in know air corridors. Sighting is usually brief, one minute or less. May be reported hovering if flight is directly toward the observer. May also include a sudden burst of speed. No sound associated with the aircraft if wind is blowing away from the observer. Aircraft is normally reported as a single light, however, more than one light has also been reported with this type of mission. Sightings of this type are almost exclusively reported at night. A few people have become emotionally upset and disturbed by this type of experience.

Special tests or training missions, vary from a single plane to multiple flights or major air operations. These missions have from time to time given rise to UFO reports, however, these operations can be easily checked by contacting the local, regional, or Major Air Command controllers.

A jet with after-burner in operation, viewed from the side, may give the appearance of a short flame. It is usually reported as blue and tapering. When the afterburner is cut off, the object may appear to have either just vanished or zoomed off into space. Duration is usually brief and the sighting is usually viewed during the climb. If viewed from the rear, the jet may be reported as red or orange with some yellow and of no distinct shape. Here again the disappearance may be sudden. If at high altitude, only a nondescript light may be reported.

REFUELING MISSIONS

Here lights on the tanker and the multiple aircraft engaged in the operation add new visual characteristics. Sightings are at night only; daylight operations would be easily recognized for what they are. They may be at low or high altitudes. Multiple lights will be moving around, in formation, going off and on. The basic light formation will fly straight for a set distance, then may make a 180 degree turn. Duration in an area may seem as long as fifteen minutes, but any single pass should not last more than four or five minutes. Lights may be seen going one way and then appear on their return path later.

Refueling operations are rigidly controlled and are conducted only in specified areas. A “Flight Planning Guide” issued by the Aeronautic Chart and Information Center gives the location of these areas and the agency controlling each. A phone call to the controller will determine whether the area was in use at a particular time and what Squadron flew the mission. A call to Squadron Operations will determine the number and type of aircraft flown plus the times of entry and exit from the controlled corridors.

PHOTO AIRCRAFT

Aircraft using flare drops for photo work are most often reported simply as flares. Similarly, aircraft using strobes to illuminate their target, which may

work at either low or high altitudes, are reported as a series of evenly spaced flashes. Duration of these sightings is usually less than two minutes, more frequently thirty seconds.

Infra-red photo planes have turbine generators to drive their equipment. These make a whining noise which can be heard above the noise of the aircraft engines. Not many agencies do this type of work, which is often classified. The planes used for this type of research are rather slow, less than 125 mph. Much of this research is done early in the morning and the operations are normally conducted with full landing lights because of the low level altitudes which are normally flown.

ADVERTISING AIRCRAFT

Planes towing targets or banners during daylight hours are not usually misinterpreted unless they remain at such a distance that the observer cannot distinguish the vehicle and sign. Frequently in

such cases the reports are accompanied by drawings picturing the towed banner as part of the UFO. Duration is longer than for other aircraft sightings, and the flight generally includes maneuvers. The frequently used loud speaker would not be heard unless the flight is close enough for correct identification. Local investigators can check for these aircraft, since the FAA regulations require a permit for such flights.

HELICOPTERS

The motion is slow and it may or may not appear to be hovering. It needs to be far enough from the observer to escape daylight identification. It has been reported as a black speck moving back and forth, up and down. During darkness, weird effects can be caused by the red rotating beacon light when it flashes off the canopy. Positive identification is usually simple to obtain by checking the flight schedules of military and civilian helicopters in the area.

BALLOONS

Flight characteristics in these cases are affected by meteorological factors. Wind temperature data is obtained from the Weather Bureau for any desired location throughout the U.S.. Lt. Col. Boyce Smith, the liaison Air Weather Service Officer at Wright-Patterson, obtained and evaluated all meteorological data for the project office. Low level weather balloons are described in sightings as round or oval, occasionally oblong. The flight may be reported as hovering, rising, zigzag, or erratic, but the object must be moving with the wind. It will be picked up by radar only if a radar reflector is attached. A frequent time for sightings is at dusk, before the balloon disappears into the earth’s shadow. It is rarely sighted at night; its small white lights are not visible to ground observers from above 10,000 feet without optical aids. The sightings from planes is usually very brief, and on occasion experienced pilots have attributed unusual motion to balloons.

An upper-air balloon may be described as round or oval, usually silver during the day and orange at dusk. It will appear stationary or in slow motion. Actually, it moves with prevailing winds at the altitude six months to the east and six months to the west. It will probably be picked up on radar and remain in the area long enough to be identified by aircraft scrambled or diverted for this purpose. Sudden disappearance is to be expected at dusk, and may be reported as zooming off into space. The sun's reflection through folded panels can give unusual flashing effects. Every effort is made to collect as many reports as possible; in this manner we have assisted the Scientific Community in recovering a number of these expensive balloons.

Upper air research balloons are launched by the military and civilian agencies for cosmic ray and other studies. These are about 100 feet in diameter, usually of polyethylene. They can be programmed to fly at various altitudes between 80,000 and 125,000 feet or higher. Their appearance may vary according to the equipment which is suspended below the main body, however, it may also carry other attachments. This balloon is visible from the ground without optical aids and reports of

their configuration do vary quite a bit. The speed will vary with the wind, from hovering in the same area for some hours to 200 mph in the jet stream. At night the balloon will descend as the gas cools and the next day go back up to the programmed altitude. It usually carries a radio beacon which is followed by tracking stations and pacer planes. It also carries running lights and radar reflectors. Occasionally, multiple balloons are used to carry heavy equipment. Pilots, scrambled to check on this kind of balloon, cannot reach its altitude, but can get close enough to identify it. At dawn the balloon may suddenly appear as it moves into the sunlight, and similarly may disappear at dusk.

EARTH SATELLITES

In order for a report to be evaluated as an artificial satellite, the following criteria must be met: (1) Time of the sighting must be at night and at such an hour that the vehicle can reflect the sun’s rays. (2) Object should resemble a star in visual characteristics. (3) Direction of flight can have a westerly component only in the case of retrograde satellites. (4) Duration (considering the degrees of arc through which the object is observed) must be consistent with satellites orbital odocities.

Satellites are normally reported as a star-like moving light most frequently white but occasionally yellow, green, blue, orange, and even red. Motion may be steady, hesitating, or zigzag; portions of the flight may be seen as hovering or stationary. The path may be reported as straight or arching, and a turn may be ascribed to it at the beginning or end of the flight. The object may appear or disappear suddenly. The speed should be about 15 degrees of arc per minute, the average duration is three to six minutes. There are over thirty artificial satellites in orbit which are visible to the naked eye.

ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS

The most common UFO reports were of astronomical observation, bright stars, planets, comets, fireballs, meteors, auroral streamers, and other celestial bodies. When observed through haze, light fog, moving clouds, or some other unusual conditions, the planets, especially Venus, Jupiter, and Mars, have been reported as UFO's. Stellar mirages are also a source of astronomical reports.

OTHER CATEGORIES

There are three other classifications used for UFO reports. An UNSUFFICIENT DATA category takes care of those reports in which essential elements of information are missing and therefore cannot properly be evaluated. Such information as duration, date, time, local sky position, weather conditions, appearance and disappearance was frequently missing in letter reports mailed directly to the project office. If there was any indication that such a sighting could be important from the viewpoint of security, scientific or technical value, or public interest, every attempt was made to obtain additional information necessary before placing the report in this category.

Another category was a catch-all labeled OTHER. It included missiles, reflections, mirages, search lights, birds, kites, spurious radar indications, hoaxes, fireworks, flares, photos, physical specimens, and satellite decays.

And finally we arrive at the mysterious UNIDENTIFIED category. A sighting was considered UNIDENTIFIED when a report apparently contained all the data necessary to suggest a valid hypothesis, but its description could not be correlated with any known object or phenomenon.

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UFO PUBLIC RELATIONS

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The operational aspect of the UFO program did not really present too much of a problem for the Air Force; however, our public relations were always like a yo-yo. I'm happy to say, that at the end they were always improving.

Some place along the line, in the early fifties, the program got short-changed and it began to get bad press. I can understand why, too. Reporters like to interview, and when a project officer is not available, then they're going to write according to the way they imagine things are. This was the case in the early fifties. For some reason, and I can only surmise that it was because the UFO program was still in Intelligence Channels, UFO investigating officers were not available for interviews and were inaccessible. My predecessor, Lt. Col. Robert Friend, was interviewed a number of times; however, he was the first project officer to be personally interviewed by a reporter. When I became the project officer in July of 1963, a whole new slate of personnel was taking over in the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information (SAFOI). All of us had the same idea—let's be open about the program, after all there was nothing to hide. My commander at the time was Brig. Gen. Arthur W. Peirce. General Peirce was concerned that reporters might start taking interest in some of his intelligence activities; however, I assured him that UFO's would be the only topic discussed at my press interviews.

From July 1963 to April 1964, there was very little publicity about the UFO program. I had just come on board as project officer, so the UFO hobby clubs were not yet picking on the program again. Public relations were routine, such as answering letters and furnishing information to students for their science projects or term papers. Things were going so well, that I remember I stopped smoking that January. All hell broke loose on April 24, 1964, and I started smoking again. On that date at approximately 17:45 hours, at Socorro, New Mexico, police officer Lonnie Zamora was headed south chasing a speeding automobile when he suddenly heard a roar and saw a flame in the sky to the southwest. He decided to let the speeder go in favor of investigating the flame, because he knew there was a dynamite

shack in the area and it might have blown up. He turned onto a gravel road that led by the shack.

As he was driving slowly along the road, Zamora saw above a steep hill just ahead a funnel- shaped flame, bluish and sort of orange. The base of the flame was hidden behind the hill, there was no smoke connected with the flame. He had trouble getting the car to the top of the hill because of loose gravel; he had to try three times before he made it. As he reached the top of the hill, he saw a shiny object to the south, this side of the dynamite shack, about 150 to 200 yards away. It was off the road to the left in the arroyo, and at first glance it looked like a car turned over, but when he drove closer it appeared to be aluminum clay, not chrome, and oval-shaped like a football. Zamora drove about fifty feet along the hill crest, radioing back to the sheriff's office, "10-44 (accident), I'll be 10-6 (busy out of the car), checking a wreck down in the arroyo". From this point, seated in the car, he could not see the object over the edge of the hill. As he stopped the car, he was still talking on the radio, and while he was getting out he dropped his mike. He picked it up and put it back and started down towards the object.

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Just then he heard a very loud roar, not exactly like a blast, but also not steady like a jet engine. It was of low frequency at first and then became higher. At the same time he saw a light blue flame, sort of orange at the bottom. Zamora believed the flame came from the underside of the object; he could see no smoke but he did see some dust in the vicinity. He panicked, thinking the object was going to blow up. The following is his report of what he experienced (with slight rearrangements for the sake of clarity).

As soon as I saw flame and heard roar…ran away from object but did turn head towards object. Object was in shape It was smooth—no windows or doors. As roar started, it was still on the ground. Noted red lettering of some type like_____. Insignia was about two and one half inches high and about two inches wide, I guess. Was in the middle of object, like _____. Object still like aluminum white.

(Running), bumped leg on car back fender area. Car facing southwest…fell by can [sic] and (sun) glasses fell off, kept running to north, with car between me and object…rose to about level of car, about twenty to twenty-five feet, guess. Took I guess, about six seconds when object started to rise and I glanced back…it appeared about directly over the place where it rose from.

I was still running…(then) about fifty feet from car. I ducked down, just over edge of hill…I stopped because I did not hear the roar. I was scared of the roar, and I had planned to continue running down the hill. I turned around toward the object and at the same time put my head toward ground, covering my face with my arms…when the roar stopped, heard a sharp tone whine and the whine lasted maybe a second. Then there was complete silence about the object.

That’s when I lifted up my head and saw the object going away from me… in a southwestern direction…It did not come any closer to me. It appeared

to go in straight line and at same height—possibly ten to fifteen feet from ground, and it cleared the dynamite shack by about three feet. Shack about eight feet high. Object was traveling west fast. It seemed to rise up and take off immediately across country.

I ran back to my car and as I ran back, I kept an eye on the object. I picked up my …sunglasses, got into the car, and radioed to Nep Lopes, radio operator, to look out the window to see if he could see an object. He asked, "What is it?" I answered, "It looks like a balloon". I don't know if he saw it. If Nep looked out his window, which faces north, he couldn't see it. I did not tell him at the moment which window to look out of.

As I was calling Nep, I could still see object. The object seemed to lift up slowly, and to get small in the distance very fast. It seemed to just clear the Box Canyon or Mile Canyon Mountain. It disappeared as it went over the mountain. It had no flame whatsoever as it was traveling over the ground, and no smoke or noise.

Feeling in good health. Las drink—two or three beers over a month ago. Noted no odors. Noted no sounds other than described. Gave direction to Nep Lopes at radio and to Sergeant Chaves (of New Mexico State Police at Socorro) to get there. Went down to where the object had been, and I noted the brush was burning in several places.—I got my pen and drew a picture of the insignia on the object.

Then Sgt. Chaves came up, asked me what the trouble was because I was sweating and he told me that I was white, very pale. I asked the Sgt. To see what I saw and that was the burning brush. Then Sgt. Chaves and I went down to the spot and Sgt. Chaves pointed out the tracks.

When I first saw the object (when I thought it might be a car) I saw what appeared to be two legs of some type from the object to the ground. At the time, I didn't pay much attention to…the two legs. The two legs were at the bottom of the object, slanted outwards to the ground. The object might have been about three and a half feet from the ground at the time…

Lonnie Zamora experienced an event which left quite an impression on him. He was a serious officer, a pillar of his church, and a man well versed in recognizing airborne vehicles in his area. He was puzzled by what he saw, and frankly, so am I. And yet, I've always had some doubt about this case, even though it is the best documented case on record. In spite of the fact that I conducted the most thorough investigation that was humanly possible, the vehicle or stimulus that scared Zamora to the point of panic has never been found.

During the course of the investigation and immediately thereafter, everything that was possible to verify was checked. The communications media must have been waiting for a case like this, because immediately after Zamora reported his sighting all hell broke loose. The telephone at my house was ringing off the hook. I went to my office so that I could direct the investigation from there and at the same time contact Kirtland, Holloman, and White Sands via our telephone communications system. As I walked into our building, and turned into the hallway towards my office, I could hear the telephone ringing, ringing, ringing. The operator informed me that I had ten or twelve calls waiting for me. I decided not to accept the calls until after I had talked with my UFO investigating officer at Kirtland. Major Connor was my primary investigator at Kirtland, but he was inexperienced. Fortunately, my chief analyst, Sgt. David Moody was on temporary duty at Kirtland. I asked Major Connor to get in touch with him and for Moody to get in touch with me regardless of the hour. It was hours before the investigation could be organized and on its way. A Geiger counter had to be found and the base photographer had to be called. The staff car, which had been provided for the investigation had a flat tire midway between Albuquerque and Socorro. Socorro is located fifty-five miles south of Kirtland Air Force Base.

The Stallion Range Officer had already conducted a preliminary investigation and had also interviewed Zamora. This information was turned over to the Air Force investigators as soon as they began their

interview with Zamora. Connor and Moody kept in touch with me and provided me with good information, but there was nothing from which we could draw a definite conclusion or a decent evaluation. The news media was on SAFOI's back and SAFOI was on my back. I didn't have any idea as to what Zamora saw and reported, but by God, I was going to find it. Because of the pressure from the news media, I decided to send Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Project Blue Book consultant, to Kirtland to help with the investigation. I felt that Hynek could concentrate on Socorro while Connor and Moody could check all other activity at the other bases in New Mexico. In the meantime, Marilyn Beumer Stancombe, my secretary, and I began checking for some sort of positive activity. Radiation had been checked by Connor and Moody and the readings were negative. I checked the Holloman AFB Balloon Control Center for balloon activity. All local weather stations and Air Force bases in New Mexico were checked for release of weather balloons. Helicopter activity was checked throughout the state. Government and private aircraft were checked. The reconnaissance division in the Pentagon was checked. I checked with the immigration division hoping they might help. Finally, I was at my wits end, so I told Marilyn, "Get me the White House Command Post". She looked at me with those beautiful blue eyes of hers like I was nuts. I said, "Yes, Marilyn, the White House Command Post". She never asked me a question, she just started dialing. I was afraid she would ask me how she could reach them, but she didn't. It took her five or six calls, but she got me the Command Post. A Major

General answered and I explained to him my situation. He was very sympathetic, but off hand he couldn't recall any type of activity in my area of interest. However, he'd check and call me back. Fifteen minutes later the General called back and told me that the only activity which he had was some U-2 flights. That was no help, so I thanked him for his cooperation and put my thinking cap on again. It took days for us to check all of these agencies and activities. I finally received Dr. Hynek's report; it was one of his typical reports which contained few technical details and added practically nothing to what had already been submitted by Connor and Moody. Actually, Hynek added very little to the investigation, however, his typical press interviews added more flame to the fire. The more press coverage the sightings got, the greater the number of sightings which were reported throughout New Mexico.

I was determined to solve the case and come hell or high water I was going to find the vehicle or the stimulus. I decided that it was imperative for me to talk to the Base Commander at Holloman AFB. I wanted to interview the Base Commander at length about special activities from his base. I needed help to pull this off, so I called Lt. Col. Maston Jacks at SAFOI. I told him what I wanted to do and he asked, "Do you think it will do any good?" I replied, "God damned it Maston, if there is an answer to this case it has to be in some hanger at Holloman". He went to work from his position at the Pentagon and the approval for my visit came through. Colonel Garman was the Base Commander during my visit. He was most cooperative and told me that I could go anywhere and visit any activity which interested me. I went from one end of the base to the other. I spent four days talking to everybody I could and spent almost a whole day with the down-range controllers at the White Sands Missile Range. I left Holloman dejected and convinced that the answer to Zamora's experience did not originate and terminate at that base.

On my way back to Wright-Patterson, I hit upon an idea. Why not a lunar landing vehicle? I knew that some research had been done at Wright-

Patterson; so as soon as I got back I asked for some briefings. The briefings were extremely informative, but the Lunar Landers were not operational in April 1964. I got the names of the companies that were doing research in this field and I started writing letters. The companies were most cooperative, but their answers were all negative.

It was now time for me to pass judgment on the case after a careful review of all the information at hand. I hate to use the word “judgment”, but that is exactly what it boils down to. As President Truman used to say, “The buck stops here”, and in the world of UFO’s my desk was the end of the line. It was time for the Air Force to make a formal decision on the sighting of Socorro, New Mexico. I reviewed the Air Force Materials Laboratory Analysis of the soil samples which were gathered at the alleged landing area. Conclusion: no foreign residue. Laboratory analysis of the burned brush revealed no chemicals that could have been propellant residue. Radiation was normal for the alleged landing area and for the surrounding area. There was no unusual meteorological activity, no thunderstorms; the weather was windy, but clear. Although we made an extensive search for other witnesses, none could be located. There were no unidentified helicopters or aircraft in the area. Radar installations at Holloman AFB and at Albuquerque observed no unusual blips, but the down-range Holloman MTI (Moving Target Indicator) Radar, closest to Socorro, had been closed down for the day at 1600 hours. All the findings and conclusions were negative. The object was traveling at

approximately 120 miles per hour when it disappeared over the mountains according to Zamora's best estimate. I labeled the case "Unidentified" and the UFO buffs and hobby clubs had themselves a field day. According to them, here was proof that our beloved planet had been visited by an extraterrestrial vehicle. Although I labeled the case "Unidentified" I've never been satisfied with that classification. I've always felt that too many essential elements of the case were missing. These are the intangible elements which are impossible to check, so the solution to this case could very well be lying dormant in Lonnie Zamora's head.

SAFOI and I had been most fair with the communications media. We gave them everything we had on the case. We even let the reporters review the official file for themselves, but we still took our lumps from some of them. Reporters are a unique breed. They are impatient, offensive, and they don't like to read voluminous reports. Time and time again I offered them the official reports, only to have them ask for my opinion and what I thought of the incident. I had good rapport with most of the reporters, but three or four of them were real stinkers. It's not really a bad percentage if you take into account the total number of reporters that I dealt with.

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THE MAKING OF A UFO INVESTIGATING OFFICER

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I've often been asked, "How did you get involved with flying saucers?" My answer has always been short and simple. I was appointed to the position by my superior officer. It's important that I give you some of my background. It's important to me because I think there might be a message for some Mexican kid who is about ready to drop out of school or our society. The easiest thing in the world to do is drop-out. The most difficult thing to do is to drop-in and challenge the system lawfully. This country of ours offers us many opportunities and we must be ready intellectually and physically to accept the challenge and to excel. My life had its beginning in Monterrey, Mexico. I was born in a neighborhood which is now considered the ghetto. My parents, my three brothers, and I immigrated to the United States when I was six years old. I remember walking across the old bridge at Laredo, Texas, and I wanted to urinate very badly. Mama wouldn't let me urinate in the old Rio Grande River, so I had to wait until we reached the immigration office. I remember my parents being afraid of the customs officers. I guess all immigrants have this feeling and some of it is unjustified and some of it is justified. My first impression of Laredo, Texas, was one of disappointment. Someone along the way had lied to me. The streets in the United States were not paved with gold. In fact, many of the streets were not paved at all. We settled in San Antonio, Texas, and our first house in the United States was a humble one. We rented a house in the vicinity of Martin and Laredo streets. The house was small and we had an old cast iron stove for cooking. We also had a dirt floor, but it didn't bother us kids too much because we only wore shoes on Sunday. There was an elementary school two blocks from our house and I was immediately registered to attend that school. The enrollment was predominately Mexican and they had a language of their own which they called "Tex-Mex". I was in a hell of a pickle, because I spoke Castilian Spanish and no English. There were a few Angolos around the school, but they were definitely in the minority. Needless to say, I didn't get along with either group. The Mexicans didn't like us because we were fair skinned, talked funny, and considered uppity. The Angolos didn't like us because we were Mexicans; consequently I

remember fighting practically every day of my life, but my brothers and I survived. We stuck together and always came to each others aid. In fact, we're still that close and manage to help each other when the need arises.

We moved around a few times and we always lived on the fringe of the "West Side". In San Antonio, the "West Side" is that section of the city which is reserved for the underprivileged, the illiterates, the dope addicts, the gangs, the bars with whores, and everything else that preys on poverty. If you live in the West Side of San Antonio and survive its environment, then my countryman, you deserve a medal. I started peddling papers at the age of seven. My turf was the Baptist Memorial Hospital. It was a good location and I used to have to fight guys every day to keep them from infringing on my territory. The depression hit hard and not too many people were willing to part with two cents for a paper; so I started carrying a shoe shine box. I'd shine shoes for anything; whatever the traffic would bear. The doctors at the hospital were kind and I've often remembered them. The gentlemen I remember most is Franklin D. Jones, who was the hospital auditor during my formative years. In fact, I've always considered Mr. Jones my "guardian angel". I've never told him so, but I've always felt that he was instrumental in forming my personal attitude towards life. Here was an Angolo

who took an interest in our life; who offered us love, compassion, guidance, and even visited our $1.25 a week shack. He arranged to have my tonsils removed when I was constantly sick with tonsillitis. He bought me my first suit when I graduated from Hawthorne Junior High School. He taught me how to keep books on my newspaper accounts, so that I could pay my bills. He taught me compassion for my fellow men and above all he set an example for me which has been difficult to follow.

Even though I was peddling papers, my parents always made me go to school. I guess I never thought about dropping out, but it got a little bit tougher the older I got. During my Junior High School years, I had a paper route on Dewey Street right next to where San Antonio College is now located. I used to get my papers at the Sinclair Station located at Dewey and McCoullough. The station was managed by J.C. Glass and he used to leave the latrine door open in the winter time so that I could keep warm while I was blocking my papers. My paper route was a morning and afternoon route; so that meant that I had to get up at four-thirty every morning in order to get to school on time. The afternoon route was a breeze compared to the early morning ordeal. Poor Mama, so many times she heard my alarm and no effort from me to rise. She would come over to my bed and say, “Hijo, es tiempo que te vallas”, which in English means, “Son, it’s time for you to go”. During my high school years, I changed companies. The San Antonio Light had only afternoon deliveries, so I went with them. I stayed with them until my first month at St. Mary’s University. I had a Physics and Mechanical Drawing Lab twice a week and my customers were beginning to complain about my late deliveries. They had a right to complain and I recognized this and talked it over with my manager, Mr. S.G. Rees. We agreed that I should leave and then he helped me get a part time job at the Post Office. I worked part time at the Post Office until I got my draft notice. I was sorting mail on night in January, 1943, when one of the city sorters tapped me on the shoulder. He said, “I think this belongs to you”, and sure enough it did. I asked Mr. Nelms if I could have permission to take it home and he said OK. I was very happy and proud to be able to go into the Army

because the thing I wanted most to be was a navigator. I was good at math and I knew I could hack it. I had one draw back and that was that in order to be an officer in the Army Air Corps you had to be an American Citizen. I was an immigrant and up to that time, too young to apply for citizenship. I was drafted into the Army Air Corps and sent to Radio Tech School in Wisconsin and Radar Tech School at Boca Raton, Florida. While at Boca Raton I worked on my naturalization papers, but I received my overseas assignment before I could take the oath. I was assigned to the 72nd Bomb Squadron, 13

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Air Force in March 1944. We moved all over the South Pacific and in March 1945, we landed in Samar, Republic of the Philippines. I was still trying to get my citizenship papers, but I always managed to miss the authorities who could administer the oath. My Commander called me in one day and told me that one of our planes was going to Manila. The plane would be gone for three days. The Ambassador in Manila could administer the oath. I hitch-hiked on an Army truck from the Air Base all the way to Manila. I went to the American Embassy and I told the lady why I was there and she very slowly and solemnly shook her head and told me that the Ambassador…[LOST LAST SENTENCE]…night I got very depressed and despondent and ended up in a little dive across the street from the Manila Stadium. I made friends with another soldier who was on pass and we both proceeded to get bombed. The whiskey was crude,

green, and bad. I still remember the name of the whiskey which we were drinking, it was “Purple Heart”, and I think I deserve one for drinking it. My friend and I managed to get back to our tents and I had the good fortune of vomiting before I hit my sack. I slept fully clothed and even had my flight cap on when I awoke the next morning. That was my first drunk and I’ve never forgotten it.

The war came to an end just as we were getting ready to deploy elsewhere. Rumor had it that we were going to Okinawa and wait for the invasion of Japan. I was scheduled to go with the advance unit, but instead ended up cooling my heels waiting for transportation to take me home. I came back on an old liberty ship and spent eighteen days in the bottom hold which smelled of human bodies which were placed too close together. Showers were a luxury and the water was rationed. I got back to the States in good shape and my experience on the liberty ship was just another chapter in my book of life.

I was discharged from the Army Air Corps on December 16, 1945. I was discharged at Fort Bliss, Texas, and immediately headed for home. I enrolled at Saint Mary’s University at mid-term in January, 1946.

On October 25, 1946, I was administered the naturalization oath in the Federal Building in San Antonio, Texas and thereby became a full-fledged United States citizen. It meant a lot to me then and it still does.

I picked up my educational pieces and decided on a physics degree. I received my degree in 1950, however, this was the era of the Korean conflict and the business world was uncertain and unstable, so I got a job and waited. As a newspaper and shoe-shine boy around San Antonio, I remember vividly dreaming of being an officer in the United States Army. I used to see these young officers in their “Pinks and Greens” and I’d say to myself that one day I would be one of them. In April of 1951, after having

passed all the requirements, the Air Force offered me a direct Commission as a Second Lieutenant and I accepted. And another dream had come true.

In August, 1951, I was called to Active Duty and assigned to the USAF Security Service. I spent nine years with Security Service as an intelligence officer. I served two tours of duty with the headquarters in San Antonio and a tour each in Germany and Japan. My next four years were spent at Rome Air Development Center as a Systems Project Officer.

In April 1963, I was informed of a new assignment at Wright-Patterson. Nobody mentioned UFO's and probably nobody knew at the time, that I was to become the new and the last Project Blue Book Officer. I arrived at Wright-Patterson during the latter part of July, 1963. My sponsor was Lt. Col. Robert Friend, chief of Project Blue Book from 1959 to July, 1963. Bob Friend had done a tremendous job with the UFO program, but very few people knew it. He did his job, did it well, and stayed in the background. Bob took me around the Base, showed me where all the essential buildings were located, and then introduced me to all his contacts. In this business, contacts are essential in order to get the job done in the minimum time. When the formality of processing was all over, I was introduced to the man who in some ways changed my life and in a way also changed the destiny of the UFO's. This gentleman was a man who stood six foot, three inches tall, walked straight as an arrow, had a commanding voice, was a West Point graduate, a native of California, Persona non Grata in some circles, and a full Colonel who went by the name of Eric T. de Jonckheere.

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Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

Colonel de Jonckheere wasted no time in telling me that he had selected me to be the next UFO officer, he had reviewed my record and considered me qualified to handle the job. He needed an officer with a Physics degree, with maturity, tact, a diplomat, drive, and one who could stay cool under fire. I shook my head—hell, he couldn't be talking about me. I had a Physics degree and I was mature, but the rest of the stuff was not part of my make-up. He asked me to try it for a couple of weeks and then come back and give him a briefing. Bob Friend briefed me on the program and I occupied myself daily by doing background reading and researching. On August 5, 1963, we got a call from the newspaper office in Fairfield, Illinois. The Wayne County Press was having a field day. The first paragraph of the Wayne County Press dated August 5, 1963 read as follows:

An 18 year old boy was chased home Sunday night by a flying saucer or some other unknown heavenly body. The whole neighborhood out this way is talking about it.

MY FIRST UFO CASE

This report triggered other reports; so Bob said that I could cut my teeth on this one. I'll have to admit that I was apprehensive and probably scared, so I was most happy that Bob was heading the team. The other member of the team was Sgt. Charles R. Sharp, who would be our photographer. We left for Fairfield immediately and arrived at our destination late at night. The following morning we visited the Sheriff's office and he briefed us on what had transpired. The sheriff wasn't excited at all and he wasn't the least bit concerned at what had happened. We went to the newspaper office and they gave us names of some additional witnesses. First off, we contacted the young man who had experienced the frightening event. The newspaper reporters had been interviewing him so much that his mother at first refused to let us talk to him. The young man's grandfather interceded for us and then we were able to proceed with the investigation. We started at the beginning where he first experienced the event, on the road from the drive-

in movie. We measured angles, distances, times, etc. We went over the same route and reconstructed the event as closely as possible. I was taking most of the notes and Bob was asking most of the questions. We had a star chart with us and the clincher came when the young man told us that he and some friends had stayed up until four o'clock watching the saucer. The saucer disappeared all of a sudden at day break. In order to complete the investigation we had to talk to the young man's girl friend. She had been in the car with him as they were driving back from the drive-in movie. The young lady was bothered by a toothache and she wouldn't sit adjacent to the driver. She was in no mood to be cordial and this possibility bothered the driver to no end. She wasn't excited about her boy friend's experience. Two days after her boy friend had experienced the event, her toothache was gone and she didn't know what all the excitement was about. Before we left Fairfield, we had concluded that the flying saucer chasing the young man was really the planet Jupiter. We had two other sightings to check while we were in Fairfield. We determined that the second sighting was a meteor. We had other witnesses to verify our conclusions. The other sighting was an air to air refueling operation which we verified as soon as we returned to Wright -Patterson.

As soon as we returned to Wright-Patterson, Colonel de Jonckheere asked for a full report. Bob told me to write it up because I'd have to brief the "ole man". I briefed Colonel de Jonckheere and gave him a full account of what had transpired, our conclusions, etc. He nodded his head in satisfaction and said, "you're my new UFO officer". At that time I didn't think I was ready for the responsibility and I told him so. Colonel de Jonckheere looked me straight in the eye and said, "You take this job and do it well or I'll bust your ass". And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how I became a UFO investigating officer.

I'm really very grateful for the opportunity which was handed to me, because only in America could an immigrant Mexican rise to head such an important and controversial project. I learned quickly and matured rapidly. I had to, our critics were many and our friends were few.

THE PRESS

Much has been written about the biases and prejudices of the fourth estate and I'll admit that many times this is true. At one time in my young life, I had accepted the fourth estate as the infallible creature who was constantly in pursuit of the gospel truth. I've changed my mind and now the first question I ask is "who wrote it?", and I'll go on from there. I've had good rapport with the press as a whole, but three or four of them were a real pain in the ass.

The responsibility for dealing with the Press Corps was vested in the Secretary of the Air Force office of Information (SAFOI). It had been their responsibility since the early fifties and they kept it till the very end. SAFOI gathered all the UFO information and they in turn presented this information to the press via periodic news releases. A typical news release on UFO's in the late fifties is as follows:

[INSERT NEWS RELEASE]

This type of news release satisfies very few people and it certainly does not satisfy an inquisitive reporter. The policy at SAFOI in the mid-fifties had been to keep the UFO project office away from reporters and that all UFO data would be released from one central office. The periodic news releases didn't satisfy the communications media and they had themselves a field day. Time after time, the media raked the Air Force because they felt that they were getting meager information. The UFO buffs and the hobby clubs were always available, so they were getting the good press while the Air Force was taking its lumps. The UFO promoters were at their peak during this period and they were selling their garbage at premium prices. The press kept UFO's on the front pages and the public actually believed that the Air force knew of the reality of flying saucers, but wouldn't tell what they knew. The hobby clubs were promoting this philosophy and they were successful in selling it in some high offices of our legislative branch. If you can get Congress to investigate something, you can keep it on the front pages for a few days. The correspondence between Congress and SAFOI was very heavy during the late fifties and the early sixties. Our detractors were many and somehow they always managed to get a favorable press and at the same time the Air Force was made to look like the bad guy

who was inadequate and at the same time was deliberately deceiving the American public. Our intent was just the opposite, we wanted to inform the public of significant events which would be of national interest and at the same time honor all queries from the press.

In early July, 1964, Maston Jacks from SAFOI called to tell me that Emil Sveilis from UPI wanted a personal interview with me and asked me to be available. I sent a memo to this effect to the Colonel and he didn't like it, but he also knew that he couldn't buck SAOFI. In a show down, SAFOI always comes out on top. B/G Arthur J. Pierce was the FID Commander at the time and he didn't like the reporters coming into his classified building, but he didn't object too strongly this particular time. In a way, it was sort of unfortunate that my office was located in the Headquarters Building; because while most of the FTD's activities are classified, my job was not. Access to the building is rigidly controlled, therefore, it's not easy for an outsider to gain entrance unless he has the proper credentials. SAFOI supplied the proper credentials for Mr. Sveilis and he had no problem getting into the building and into my office. Mr. Sveilis conducted his interview in my office and I gave him all the data which he requested. Frankly, even though I had boned up for the interview, I was sweating little green apples. I had never had a personal interview with a reporter before. Sveilis was tough, but he could have been a lot tougher and I guess what saved me in that first interview was the fact that I was perfectly honest and candid with my answers. His story was straight forward and wasn't bad at all. It was a change from some of the stories which had been written about the project. Mr. Sveilis' visit also opened up the door for other reporters to visit the project office. I kept a list of media reporters who visited the office from time to time. The following is a list of individuals who have visited the Project Blue Book office at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, from 1964 to the present. The individuals, who visited the project office were granted personal interviews by the project officer and also had access to

all Air Force UFO reports.

Name

Emil Sveilis, UPI

Tom Olsen, UFO Retrieval Center, Inc. Hewes, IIOUPO

Jacque Vallee

Richard Lippincott, Scripp Howard

Al Goldberg, Associated Press

Bud Ledwyth, WXBP, Sidney, Ohio

Seymour Hothman, Toledo Blade

Bulkley Griffin

Herbert Shuldiner, Popular Science

Bill Wise & Stanley Wayman, Life Mag. CBS Reports, Joseph Wershbra & 5 personnel Mort Young, New York Journal American James Trunnel, Courier Journal, Louisville, KY Carol Clapp, Record Courier, Ravenna, Ohio Lloyd Mallan, Davis Publications

Fred Myers, National Council of Churches John Weigle, News Chronicle, California Livio Caputa of Epoca Magazine, Italy Dr. J.E. McDonald, U. of Arizona (3 visits) Barry Trader, KOA TV, Denver

Richard Platte, USAE, Joint Operations Gp. Ted Bloecher (Member of NICAP)

Roger Peterson, ABC News

Date

Duration

Jul 64 Aug 64 Sep 64 Mar 65 Aug 65 Sep 65 Sep 65 14 Sep 65 Oct 65 22 Oct 65 23 Mar 66 14 Apr 66 21 Apr 66 18 May 66 27 May 66 8 Jun 66 Jul 66 8 Aug 66 2 & 7 Aug 66 Jun & Jul 66 5 Jan 67 24 Jan 67 4 Feb 67 15 Feb 67

two days three days one day two days one day one day one day one day two days one day one day one day one day one day one day three days one day one day two days nine days one day one day one day one day

Alton Blakesly, Associated Press

Ron Hite, Herald Dispatch, Huntington, W. VA Jack Jones, Dayton Daily News

Lloyd Mallan, Davis Publications

Mr. Roantgen, German TV Correspondent Mr. Clark, Miami Herald, Oxford, Ohio Dr. Robert M. Wood, McDonnell-Douglas Corp. Mr. W.S. Elwood, WGVE-FM, School of Gary, IN Mr. Walter Sullivan, New York Times

Mr. Herb Strentz, Northwestern University James Finnegan (High School student) N.Y. Dr. Robert Nathan, Computer Science, Nathan Computer, Pasadena, CA

Christy Lehman (Wittenburg Univ., student) Lloyd Mallan, Fawcett Publications

Mr. William Service, WJRT-TV, Flint, MI

16 Feb 67 1 Mar 67 6 Mar 67 31 May 67 7 Jul 67 13 Sep 67 29 May 68 19 Jun 68 28 Jun 68 17-18 Jul 68 12-13 Aug 68

one day one day one day three days two days one day two hours one hour one day two days two days

22 Oct 68 30 Oct 68 18-22 Nov 68 13 Feb 69

two hours two hours four days one day

The following is a list of personal interviews granted to the news media at their place of business. These individuals did not request access to the UFO files.

Name

Date

Duration

Greg Wallace, ABC Reports

Phil Donahue, WHIO Radio, Dayton Richmond Virginia Press Club

Scott Craig, NBC Documentary on UFO's Phil Donahue, WHIO Radio, Dayton American Society of Newspaper Editors, Washington, D.C.

1965 1965 Feb 65 June 65 29 Mar 66

one day one day one day one day one day

22 Apr 67

one day

As can be seen from the preceding list, we weren't trying to keep anybody out. However, we were trying to keep traffic to a reasonable size so that we could proceed with our normal daily work. Our image of a secret little office changed proportionally with the number of reporters who visited the project office. In 1966, our critics changed their tactics, and in order to grab a few headlines started accusing the Air Force of incompetence.

The main critic which the Air Force had was the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). They claimed they had over 10,000 dues paying members. For a monthly fee each member was entitled to receive a monthly bulletin which gave a distorted account of what was happening in the World of Flying Saucers. This bulletin was widely distributed, and also frequently quoted by members of the Free Lance Writing Profession. The NICAP headquarters is located on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C., but it is in no way sponsored or funded by any agency of the United States government. Neither does it have any official government connections or responsibilities. Besides printing its monthly bulletin, NICAP also sold books dealing with flying saucers; and was a

natural outlet for books written by its director, Donald E. Keyhoe, Major, USMC (Ret.). Keyhoe has written at least three flying saucer books that I know of, and the NICAP bulletins gave him many columns of free publicity.

NICAP, on two occasions, was the main instigator for Congressional Investigations of the UFO project, but the results were not to their liking. In fact, all the ridicule and venom which their

bulletin heaped on the Air Force only made us strive harder to overcome our deficiencies. In the end, we managed to survive all their criticisms and perform a credible service to the American public. The power of the press is tremendous, but in the end, truth does prevail. I might add that NICAP writers were masters at presenting meager and unverified data as fact. This is what sold their bulletins and procured new members for their pseudo-scientific organization.

Another organization with a wide following, and international in scope, was the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), which has its headquarters in Alamogordo, New Mexico. APRO also had a bulletin which was widely distributed and was published professionally on good quality paper. APRO was not an outspoken critic of the USAF UFO program, although at times they did criticize our methods of operation. Their bulletin deals mostly with reporting UFO incidents which have been reported to their international headquarters. Coral E. Lorenzen is the director and she has written a couple of books on flying saucers. APRO has done its share in keeping the interest of flying saucers before the public.

UFOs: An Air Force Dilemma

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CONGRESS AND THE UFO’S

Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

The Congress of the United States has always been interested in the USAF UFO program. A few members of Congress have managed to grab some spectacular UFO headlines, however, most of these publicity hunting opportunities have either been defeated for re-election or have fallen by the wayside. Many private UFO clubs were formed in the early 1950's. In the beginning the objective in most cases was sincere, however, as time passed the attitudes changed and then their principal pastime and objective was to accuse the Air Force of misleading the public. Most of these clubs professed to study the UFO problem scientifically, but none were competently manned to do so. They were continually bombarding members of Congress with critical letters and those letters in turn were submitted to the Pentagon for necessary action. These hobby clubs have frequently accused the USAF of having a higher office in the Pentagon making all the decisions for Project Blue Book. My office was supposed to be the book keeping extension of that office and I was only the record keeper. The truth of the matter is that SAFOI handled National Public Relations and I handled all operational aspects of the program. AFRDDG monitored the Air Force Program for the Air Staff from 1966 until it was cancelled, and CAR monitored Dr. E.U. Condon's Colorado Project. In all matters dealing with UFO's the buck stopped at Wright-Patterson, consequently all congressional referrals eventually were coordinated by me or my assistant. Letters to members of Congress increased in 1958 and Senator McClellan's sub-committee requested a formal presentation of all aspects dealing with the UFO Program. The briefing was given to the sub-committee on January 31, 1958, and the members seemed satisfied. Politics again plagued the program later on in the year when Senator McCormack's sub- committee requested an up-dated briefing. A full scale briefing was given to the sub-committee and again satisfaction was expressed by the members. The hobby clubs were clamoring for an open- hearing in Congress and this was the reason for all the sub-committee briefings. They needed the exposure and they were applying pressure at the top. Which sub -committee had jurisdiction over Project Blue Book in case of an open-hearing? Was an

open-hearing warranted? The hobby clubs convinced some members of Congress that an open-hearing was essential, but the sub-committee as a group were not buying this approach. In 1961, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a privately supported organization, opened a concerted drive to get Congress to hold an open-hearing. NICAP claimed to have the largest UFO membership and at one time I would judge that most of the members spent all of their time writing letters. During my career I received hundreds of letters from their members and Congress received thousands. Because of NICAP's efforts to get an open-hearing, the Honorable Joseph E. Karth, a member of the Committee On Science and Astronautics, decided to conduct an investigation for the full Committee and its chairman, the Honorable Overton Brooks. Congressman Karth sent his ace staff assistant, Richard P. Hines, to Wright-Patterson to investigate all facets of Project Blue Book's operation. Mr. Hines stayed at the Project Office from July 11, through July 15, 1961. My predecessor, Lt. Col. Robert Friend, was the officer in charge of the project at the time. I talked to Bob about Mr. Hines' visit and he told me that it was cordial and thorough.

Donald E. Keyhoe, the director of NICAP signed the original letter to Congressman Karth. Keyhoe requested an open-hearing on UFO's, but in his letter he also laid down some specific demands on how the hearing should be conducted. The demands were absurd and Congressman Karth rejected them firmly. The reply concerning a UFO open-hearing was addressed to Donald E. Keyhoe as Director of NICAP. This letter was signed by Congressman Karth and I insert that letter in its entirety because I have seen excerpts of this letter in the NICAP bulletins. I have never seen this letter published in NICAP bulletins, however, I have seen paragraphs and sentences of this letter, taken out of context, published in some of their bulletins. The full text of this original letter is not easily recognized in NICAP bulletins.

Joseph E. Karth

Committee on

Science

4th District, Minnesota

and

Astronautics

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Washington, D.C.

August 28, 1961

Major Donald E. Keyhoe

U.S.M.C. (Ret.)

Director, NICAP 1526 Connecticut Ave, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I have read with interest the copy of your letter to Chairman Overton Brooks including suggested “hearing plans”.

Perhaps I have been mislead in this whole business of UFO. However, it was my belief that you, your organization, and others like it , actually had proof that UFO’s did in fact exist and that you would be prepared to prove this during the course of the hearing. And further, that UFO’s were not merely the result of space or atmospheric phenomena, but actually were craft (of sorts) from other planets.

I was sadly disappointed as I read your proposed plan, suggestions, and viewp oints. I cannot help but feel after so reading, that your primary if not sole objective is to ‘belittle’, ‘defame’, ‘ridicule’, (with the least possible publicity, you say) and thereby cause the U.S. Air Force embarrassment unless they bare to you and others, all information you seek, including such information that might involve our nation’s security. I too am opposed to unnecessary secrecy. However, unnecessary or unwarranted secrecy is nothing more than a matter of opinion. And so even though you and I are opposed to such, we may well disagree on extent and content. As a former military officer, you in your judgment and knowing all the facts, in all probability withheld from the public, knowledge I would not have considered “secret”. I repeat—I have opposed and will continue to oppose unwarranted secrecy. At the same time I will not support a proposition smelling of sour grapes in disguise.

Your letter to Chairman Brooks (including your proposed plan) concerned itself almost totally, in my opinion, with evident dislike and malicious intent toward a great branch of the

military. In fact, it sounded to me like nothing more than cheap service rivalry. Now I hasten to add that I could be wrong, but I have read many plans in my day and must say I recognize a little prejudice and/or dislike when I see it. If you are not in a position to “make a good case” that UFO’s are some kind of foreign craft, I’m not even interested in holding hearings. This I thought to be your purpose. Certainly I’m not interested in listening to headline making accusations (prompted it seems by past gripes) in open debate between you and the Air Force.

It was my every intention to have the Air Force and organizations of good repute, testify on different days so as to get all the facts. This is the custom and the protocol of Congressional hearings. And I might say—I’m not worried about public alarm—I’m much more concerned about grandstand acts of a rabble rousting nature where accusations may be made THAT COULDN’T BE ANSWERED BY ANYONE —The Air Force or NICAP. It’s apropos to point out that under your plan you wouldn’t be answering many questions if any—you’d just be asking them. Anyone can make someone else look bad under these conditions, and Iamnot a captive ofthe Air Force, I assure you.

As I have said, I suffered extreme disappointment as I read your plan. Talk about secrecy! In paragraph A of your letter to Chairman Brooks you propose “the Air Force representatives will be directed by the sub-committee to answer all of NICAP officials’ questions in regard to specific UFO sightings, reports, and to all phases of the Air Force investigation”.

However, in paragraph B of the same letter you propose “…and the NICAP representatives will answer full, except for revea ling names and certain details of a few reports given to NICAP confidentially”. (Emphasis added.) What kind of honesty, forthrightness, and fairness is that? You demand that a military service of this nation is to divulge everything to you, BUT YOU IN TURN cannot give “certain details” because it is confidential (secret)? Oh yes, I have also read paragraph C of your proposals (It is also agreed

that the Air Force may withhold names similarly, where witnesses insisted on this, and also, such minor items as c lassified radar techniques, aircraft speeds and other relatively unimportant points not bearing on these main questions at issue.) (Emphasis added).

Personally, I don't feel I need to elaborate on the generosity equivocated by your language in paragraph C. However, no one interested in justice could refrain completely. First of all, what witness honestly interested in the security of his nation, is going to insist to the Air Force that he remain anonymous? (or to your organization for that matter). Secondly, you generously grant the Air Force the privilege of withholding "relatively unimportant points not bearing on main questions at issue". Very generous, indeed. If you have information which the Air Force is keeping secret, but does not involve national security, I suggest you release it to the newspapers. They love it.

Honestly and sincerely, I make this confession; before I had received copies of your letter (and terms) to Chairman Brooks, I was vitally concerned and interested in what positive and factual information you had on UFO's and the assistance you might give to the Committee. You dispelled any hopes I had relative thereto in the language on page three: "The chief concern of NICAP Board members and officials is the increasing secrecy dangers — NOT, at this time, final conclusions about UFO's". Undoubtedly, I have been misinformed on the purpose of NICAP. I was erroneously led to believe you had factual evidence of some kind about UFO's.

If I have anything to say about it, your ter ms, conditions, and suggestions, will not be accepted.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Karth

Cc: Hon. Overton Brooks, Chairman

Hon. John McCormack, Majority Leader

Subcommittee members

JEK: eb

Donald E. Keyhoe has had NICAP in his hip pocket form the very beginning when it was formed and organized. Keyhoe was retired from the Marine Corps because of physical reasons which he suffered in an aircraft accident. He has written a number of books on flying saucers and he has always taken the position that saucers are real vehicles and therefore must be of extraterrestrial origin. NICAP has been an excellent outlet for his books and for the articles which he has written for various magazines. Some place along the way, Keyhoe decided to dislike the Air Force and he has been on their back ever since. He has used his organization to harass the Air Force, the Congress, Project Blue Book, and SAFOI. There is no doubt in my mind that Air Force reaction to his repeated requests cost the American taxpayer thousands and thousands of dollars. Every time he or one of his members writes a letter to a Congressman, the Air Force, the DoD, or the President, one of us has to drop whatever we are doing and react immediately. Sometimes six or seven people get involved and in some cases General officers and undersecretaries must be consulted when answering a UFO request to a Congressman. The Pentagon reacts to every UFO query from Congress or from any citizen, domestic or foreign. In 1967 and 1968, the Air Force distributed over 40,000 Project Blue Book Booklets. During the period from October 1966 through March 1967 SAFOI processed 9,265 pieces of UFO correspondence which included 108 Congressional referrals and 123 letters addressed to the President. In 1966 and 1967 I was receiving on the average of thirty letters per week and each one had to be answered personally. Some of my replies appeared in the NICAP bulletin, but I didn’t

mind because I expressed myself the way I felt. In my personal correspondence, I've always called a spade a spade.

NICAP and its Director didn't give up very easily. In 1964, after the Socorro sighting they began a drive for a Congressional open hearing. Since the Committee On Science and Astronautics wouldn't buy their previous hearing requests, they turned their attention on the House Armed Services Committee. The Honorable Carl Vinson was chairman of the Committee in 1964 when he replied to a request for a "Congressional investigation of the Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) problem". He replied thus:

In view of the continued and thorough investigation made by the Department of the Air Force of all reliable reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, I believe that the matter is adequately being studied by the Department and there is no reason for a congressional investigation of this matter.

It's important to bring out that not all Congressmen submitted their UFO queries to the Pentagon for action. The vast majority of them must have staffs that adequately handle this type of correspondence; because I never saw any requests from the majority of them. The few who milked this subject always managed to grab a few momentary headlines.

The pressure was on Congress and every week I'd hear rumblings and rumors that a congressional investigation was imminent. Most of these rumors were circulated by NICAP members,

but they were taking their toll. My staff was overworked and I was near a nervous breakdown from worrying about the politics in the program. General LeBailly, of SAFOI, was also concerned about all the rumors so he asked that a “Scientific Advisory Board” be appointed to investigate Project Blue Book. When I first heard about this I was livid with anger and I remember saying, “God damned, here we go again, another God damned investigation”. After the initial shock I began to welcome the opportunity to talk to the board. I forgot all about the nervous breakdown and began preparing for the presentation. The meeting with the board was to be held on February 3, 1966, at Wright-Patterson. I began preparing for their visit during Christmas week, 1965. I thank God that Dave Moody and Marilyn Stancombe were still with me during that time. Between the two of them, they could put out the work of six people and that happens to be the honest truth! We were ready for the board and we were well prepared. The board was composed of a distinguished lot of prominent scientists. Pick out any name and you’ll find him at or near the top of his scientific expertise.

The Ad Hoc Committee was composed of the following scientists:

Dr. Brian O’Brien (Chairman)

Consulting Physicist

Dr. Willis H. Ware Computer Sciences Division The Rand Corporation

Dr. Launor F. Carter

Systems Development Corporation

Mr. Jesse Orlansky ODA

Dr. Carl Sagan

Harvard University & Cornell University

Dr. Richard Porter

I gave my personal briefing in the conference room in the early part of the morning. After the briefing, the question and answer period lasted for hours. I don't remember exactly how long it lasted, but it was one hell of a long time. After the question session the members proceeded to my office where all the UFO records were kept. The members reviewed records which were of interest to them because of their field of expertise. They were free to browse through all the records or ask for any specific record which they might be interested in. Late in the afternoon, Dr. Brian O'Brien, chairman of the board, convened an executive working session. Only members of the board were present and I was not asked to attend. The Executive Committee prepared a position paper which was subsequently submitted to the Secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Doctor Harold Brown. The position paper is titled Special Report of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee to Review Project "Blue Book". It is dated March, 1066. The report as submitted to the Secretary is as follows:

I.

INTRODUCTION

As requested in a memorandum from Major General E.B.LeBailly, Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information, dated 28 September 1965 (Tab A), an SAB Ad Hoc Committee met on 3 February 1966 to review Project “Blue Book”. The objectives of the committee are to review the resources and methods of investigation prescribed by Project “Blue Book” and to advise the Air Force of any improvements that can be made in the program to enhance the Air Force’s capability in carrying out its responsibility.

In order to bring themselves up to date, the members of the Committee initially reviewed the findings of previous scientific panels charged with looking into the UFO problem. Particular attention was given to the report of the Robertson panel which was rendered in January 11953. The Committee next heard briefings from the AFSC Foreign Technology Division, which is the cognizant Air Force agency that collates information on UFO sightings and monitors investigations of individual cases. Finally, the Committee reviewed selected case histories of UFO sightings with particular emphasis on those that have not been identified.

II.

DISCUSSION

Although abut 6% (646) of all sightings (10,147) in the years 1947 through 1965 are listed by the Air Force as “Unidentified”, it appears to the Committee that most of the cases so listed are simply those in which the information available does not provide an adequate basis for analysis. In this connection it is important also to note that no unidentified objects other than those of an astronomical nature, have ever been observed during routine astronomical studies, in spite of the large number of observing hours which have been devoted to the sky. As examples of this the Palomar Observatory Sky Atlas contains some 5,000 plates made with large instruments with wide field of view; the Harvard Meteor Project of 1954-

1958 provided some 3,300 hours of observation; the Smithsonian Visual Prairie Network provided 2,500 observing hours. Not a single unidentified object has been sighted visually in all these observations.

The Committee concluded that in the 19 years since the first UFO was sighted there has been no evidence that unidentified flying objects are a threat to our national security. Having arrived at this conclusion the Committee then turned its attention to considering how the Air Force should handle the scientific aspects of the UFO problem. Unavoidable these are also related to Air Force public relations, a subject on which the Committee is not expert. Thus the recommendations which follow are made simply from the scientific point of view.

III.

CONCLUSIONSAND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the opinion of the Committee that the present Air Force program dealing with UFO sightings has been well organized, although the resources assigned to it (only one officer, a sergeant, and secretary) have been quite limited. In 19 years and more than 10,000 sightings recorded and classified, there appears to be no verified and fully satisfactory evidence of any case that is clearly outside the framework of presently known science and technology. Nevertheless, there is always the possibility that analysis of new sightings may provide some additions to scientific knowledge of value to the Air Force. Moreover, some of the case records which the Committee looked at that were listed as “identified” were sightings where the evidence collected was too meager or too indefinite to permit positive listing in the identified category. Because of this the Committee recommends that the present program be strengthened to provide opportunity for scientific investigation of selected sightings in more detail and depth than has been possible to date.

To accomplish this it is recommended that:

A. Contracts be negotiated with a few selected universities to provide scientific teams to investigate promptly and in depth certain selected sightings of UFO’s . Each team

should include at least one psychologist, preferably one interested in clinical psychology, and at least one physical scientist, preferably an astronomer or geophysicist familiar with atmospheric physics. The universities should be chosen to provide good geographical distribution, and should be within convenient distance of a base of the Air Force Systems Command (AFSC).

B. At each AFSC base an officer skilled in investigation (but not necessarily with scientific training) should be designated to work with the corresponding university team for that geographical section. The local representative of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) might be a logical choice for this.

C. One university or one not-for-profit organization should be selected to coordinate the work of the teams mentioned under A above, and also to make certain of very close communication and coordination with the office of Project Blue Book.

It is thought that perhaps 100 sightings a year night be subjected to this close study, and that possibly an average of 10 man days might be required per sighting so studied. The information provided by such a program might bring to light new facts of scientific value, and would almost certainly provide a far better basis than we have today for decision on a long term UFO program.

The scientific reports on these selected sightings, supplementing the present program of the Project Blue Book office, should strengthen the public position of the Air Force on UFO’s. It is, therefore, recommended that:

A. These reports be printed in full and available on request.

B. Suitable abstracts or condensed versions be printed and included in, or as supplements to, the published reports of Project Blue Book.

C. The form of report (as typified by “Project Blue Book” dated 1 February 1966) be expanded, and anything which might suggest that information is being withheld (such as the wording on page 5 of the above cited reference) be deleted. The form of this report can be of great importance in securing public understanding and should be given detailed study by an appropriate Air Force office.

D. The reports “Project Blue Book” should be given wide unsolicited circulation among prominent members of the Congress and other public persons as a further aid to public understanding of the scientific approach being taken by the Air Force in attacking the UFO problem.

I was not disappointed with the findings of the Scientific Advisory Board, however, I had hoped that their recommendation would have included a statement regarding the possible termination of the project. No such statement was forthcoming, however, their statement regarding the use of universities to study some UFO phenomena convinced Dr. Brown that this was the route that the Air Force should take. I consider Dr. O’Brien’s Ad Hoc Committee a milestone in the final termination of the Project. It happened to work out that was because at that point in time we were worried about survival and not thinking about terminating the project.

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THE MICHIGAN FLAP

I had weathered a few controversial flaps in the past and I was just about to get involved in another. The weather around Dayton in March, 1966 had been unseasonably mild. The rest of the Midwest was getting weather just like ours. I normally braced myself at that time of the year because invariably something always happened. Jack Jones of the Dayton Journal Herald calls the spring, “The silly season”, and I agree with him. I had expected something to happen, but I was totally unprepared for Frank Mannor’s sighting at Dexter, Michigan on 17 March 1966. When I got to my office the following morning, the switchboard lines were already backing up. News of Frank Mannor’s sighting reached the American people via the National Wire Services and the newspapers were calling for an instant evaluation. I had decided not to make any comments except that we were investigating. I got on the line with Selfridge AFB and told them that I was sending Dave Moody to assist them in checking out flight activities, radar, experimental work, and laboratory work at the university. I also decided to send Dr. Hynek to conduct an on the spot investigation of the area, the witnesses, and to make contact with the law enforcement officers in the area. I would stay at Wright-Patterson and guide the operation from my office and wait for the information to filter in. In the meantime, I would check with the National Centers for unusual activity. The next day, Moody called with a negative report. He had also checked out the radar antenna and we decided that couldn’t have been the cause. Hynek called early in the morning and told me that reporters and TV cameramen were dogging him everywhere he went. I told him he’d just have to put up with it and do the best he could, but I could tell he was pouting. He claimed that he just couldn’t do the job with so many people around. He asked me if he could have a news conference and I said no. This was setting a precedent and I didn’t like it. The next day Hynek called again, and informed me that he had a possible solution to Frank Mannor’s sighting and I asked him for the details. My secretary, Marilyn Beaumer Stancombe, was on the line taking all the information in short hand. He told me that the solution was “Swamp

Gas". I told him to check this out with his colleagues at the university and let me know their reaction. In the meantime, I would check it out with the chemists and botanists on the base. He also wanted me to arrange for a press conference from the Information Office at Selfridge AFB. I was against this from the beginning, but he was insistent and I told him I'd check it out with the Pentagon. I talked to Major Davis and Sara Hunt of SAFOI about the press conference and neither one of them was enthusiastic about the idea, however, in this particular case it could have its merits. Since it was setting a precedent, the decision would have to be made at the top. That evening at 6:30 p.m. I got a call from the Pentagon. It was Major Davis, and General Garland had made an affirmative decision with regards to the press conference. This time it would be an exception; however, I was not to submit requests of this type in the future. Hynek called me at the house at around nine o'clock that night and I gave him the news. The first thing the next morning I called up Selfridge and told them to arrange the conference. Someone suggested the Detroit Press Club as the site of the conference and I couldn't see any objection to that. The reason for the change of sites was the convenience to reporters. The Detroit Press Club is much more accessible than the Selfridge Information office.

I did have specific instructions for Hynek. I wanted to see a copy of his news release before he distributed it to the reporters. I also wanted him to read his release to Sara Hunt at SAFOI, two hours before the conference, so that we could prepare copies for release to the National Media from the DoD press desk. Hynek read his release to Sara and copies were ready for distribution at the designated time. While Hynek was holding his news conference in Detroit, the Pentagon was releasing his finding to the Media in Washington, D.C.

The project took its lumps because many people had not heard of “Swamp Gas”, Misama, Foxtails, Jack O’Lanterns, Will O’the Wisp, Foolish Fire, or Ignis Fatuces. The news media played this sighting to the hilt. The publicity that this sighting received was unbelievable. Hynek became an instant celebrity and the sightings started pouring in. We had a total of 1,112 sightings in 1966 and that total has never been equaled since.

The Michigan Flap also brought cries of indignity from some quarters. NICAP again started a drive to get Congress to listen to its pleas for a congressional hearing. NICAP acquired an ally which they hadn’t up to now. Congressman Gerald Ford got on the UFO bandwagon. It just so happens that Dexter was in Congressman Ford’s district. It was pure politics and he made the national news by demanding that either the Science and Astronautics Committee or the House Armed Services Committee schedule hearings on the subject of UFO’s. He suggested that they invite testimony from both the executive branch of the government and some of the persons who claim to have seen UFO’s. Congressman Ford cited two news media columnists to support his position. Roscoe Drummond wrote a column in which he stated that, “Maybe all of these reported sightings are whimsical, imaginary, or unreal, but we need a more credible and detached appraisal of the evidence than we are getting”. He went on to say, “We need to get all the data drawn together in one place and examined far more objectively than anyone has done so far. A stable public opinion will come from a trustworthy look at the evidence, not from belittling it”. And as a clincher

he added, “The time has come for the President or Congress to name an objective and respected panel to investigate, appraise, and report on all present and future evidence of what is going on”. Mr. Drummond has a perfect right to express his opinion, however, I don’t know of one single responsible Air Force official who ever belittled UFO’s or the UFO program. We called them as we saw them and there was no intent to belittle anyone or any event. Congressman Ford also used Bulkley Griffin’s column to further support his position. Mr. Griffin wrote in one of his articles that, “A main conclusion can be briefly stated. It is that the Air Force is misleading the public by its continuing campaign to produce and maintain belief that all sightings can be explained away as misidentified familiar objects, such as balloons, stars, and aircraft.” The record speaks for itself and neither the Air Force or myself have to defend ourselves against such irresponsible statements. Someone on Congressman Ford’s staff didn’t really complete his homework or he deliberately stacked the deck in such a way that all the evidence was in favor of an open hearing. When I heard about Congressman Ford’s proposal I had to shake my head and laugh. An open hearing would be a circus and I didn’t want any part of it. Congressman Ford did get his wish, a congressional hearing was imminent. Someone should ask Congressman Ford what it cost the American taxpayer to hold that hearing and then ask him if he would like to reimburse the taxpayer for the expense; because that hearing was totally unnecessary.

THE BEGINNING OF A CONGRESSIONAL COUP

It was now pretty well established that a Congressional hearing on UFO's was going to take place. The rumors in the Pentagon were running wild. During the last week of March 1966, Secretary Brown and General McConnell had been appearing before the House Armed Services Committee to discuss the Air Force Posture. At one of the latter meetings, Chairman L. Mendel Rivers had asked Secretary Brown to be prepared to discuss UFO's at the next posture meeting which was scheduled for 5 April 1966. The wheels began to turn and panic started to strike the hearts of some individuals. General Corbin of Legislative and Liaison at the Pentagon started the ball rolling. His office informed the Public Affairs Office at the Air Force Systems Command that a hearing was imminent and to alert Brig. General Arthur W. Cruikshank. Colonel McGarrity of Public Affairs called General Cruikshank on Thursday at approximately two p.m. When General Cruikshank received the call from McGarrity, he got all excited and hollered for Ivy Nammolite, his secretary. Ivy entered his Inner Sanctum and he told her, "Get me that God damned Quintanilla". You would have thought that I was responsible for the hearings. Ivy called me at my office and I asked, "What's up?" She said, "I don't know. He just got a call from Andrews and he's all excited." The Pentagon had already alerted me that morning to start packing, but I wasn't going to do anything until the General had been appraised of what was going to transpire. On my way to the General's office, a thousand thoughts ran through my mind. Cruikshank was not an easy person to communicate with so I really didn't know what to expect. I walked in his office and he immediately told me that McGarrity had told him that he might have to back-up the Secretary at the hearing. I didn't show it at the time, but I remember a feeling of disaster creeping over me. They would tear him to pieces, he knew nothing about the technical aspects of the program and he never bothered to find out because that was my responsibility. After he calmed down, he told me, "you've got two hours to pump me". I shook my head and said, "There's no way for you to retain the information in such a short period of time". He thought about it for a

minute and said, “I won’t go, you’re going, get ready.” He called up McGarrity and told him that I would represent the project at the hearing. Cruikshank told Ivy, “Get Quintanilla out of here tonight”. It was late, I didn’t have any travel orders, plane reservations were all booked, and I wasn’t packed. Ivy, cool as a cucumber, told me to go home and get ready and she would call me later. She called later and everything was in order. She booked me on a military T-39 going to Andrews at 5:30 a.m. the next morning. I could pick up my travel orders from the guard and it meant a good nights sleep for me. The next morning while Washington was still sleeping, our little T-39 was gliding into Andrews. McGarrity took me to the Pentagon and a hectic weekend began. He turned me over to the staff in Research and Development and headed back to Andrews. Secretary Brown needed a position paper by Monday morning so we had to get started. There were numerous people involved and I can’t honestly remember all of their names. Lawyers, scientists, administrators, and information specialists were all involved at one time or another, while the position paper was being prepared. The position paper was revised and edited at least a dozen times on Saturday and Sunday. Monday morning the paper was submitted to the Secretary and he made a few revisions. Secretary Brown writes very small and he writes on the right hand margin of the paper. His suggestions are short and to the point. It amazes me

how the Pentagon gets anything done, but they manage to produce a lot of paper with a lot of words. I didn't think the position paper would be ready in time, but it was.

Over the weekend, General Corbin had decided that Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the Project Blue Book Consultant might be needed at the hearing. Hynek was contacted and he immediately left for Washington, D.C. He arrived on Sunday night and came over to the Pentagon on Monday. He was introduced to General Corbin and the basic proceedings of the hearing were discussed. I had never been exposed to a hearing before, so General Corbin emphasized that I was not to lose my temper. I was to think about my responses and to answer all questions truthfully. If I didn't know the answer to a question, I was to respond according and not be ashamed. He asked me if I was going to make a public statement for the record, and I replied I was not. He asked Dr. Hynek if he was going to make a public statement for the record, and he also replied that he was not. I'm indebted to General Corbin for his advise and for preparing me for the Monumental Happening of my life. He was good, he was damned good. The moment of truth had arrived, it was a warm, sunny day on April 5, 1966. General Corbin informed Dr. Hynek and I that we were to meet with Secretary Brown in fifteen minutes. I started to shake, after all, I had never met the number one man in the Air Force before. We walked down the corridor to the Secretary's office and it sort of calmed me down. We walked into the Secretary's office and he was standing behind a massive mahogany desk. It must have been twelve feet long. We were introduced, shook hands, and were seated in front of his desk. I glanced around the room and I could see glittering stars glued to broad shoulders all around the room. I had never seen so many General officers in all my life. My Monumental Happening had begun. Secretary brown is a warm, compassionate, intelligent human being. He asked Dr. Hynek and I questions for twenty-five minutes, and I asked myself, "How is he going to remember all of our answers"? When the time came, he was terrific, he didn't miss a lick.

They drove us down to the hill. I had a window side seat and I was looking at the scenery, but my eyes and my brain were not registering its beauty. My thoughts flashed back to that cold November day in 1929 when I walked across the Rio Grande Bridge and to my subsequent boyhood. In the few minutes that it took us to drive to the hill, my whole life time passed before me. I saw a picture of a small boy dragging a long white sack and he was picking cotton. That same boy was picking beans a little later. The climate changed and he had a bucket in his hand and he was picking coal along the railroad tracks. The scene changed and he was walking across the San Pedro creek bridge on his way to the Robert B. Green Hospital with his right eye swollen shut and it was as big as a hand ball. A kind of young intern lanced it and it was as good as new a couple of days later. I had experienced this very same thing in 1944 when I was based in New Guinea. Six Japanese Betty's had penetrated our defenses and were dropping bombs. By the time I got out of my tent, I could hear the bombs whistling and they seemed awfully close. It was pitch black and I started running for my foxhole, but I never made it. I tripped over the guide rope of my tent and fell forward on my stomach. I started digging the ground with my fingernails and my boyhood experience passed in front of me in those few seconds. I had been scared in 1944, was I starting to feel that way again? I had been in danger then, but the stakes had changed since then and now the only thing I had to fear was fear itself.

I took a deep breath and I remembered what General Corbin had told me…"Stay cool, don't lose your temper, answer the questions truthfully…"

THE COUP

Our car was coming into the parking area of the Same Rayburn building and my mind snapped back to the present. Our escort was waiting for us at the front door and he led us to a foyer off to the side of the main committee room. I was getting fidgety, my stomach was starting to knot up; so I got us and started pacing the hall. After a few minutes, a member of the council staff opened the side door and announced that we could come in. I was one of the last ones to enter the committee room and then all the doors were locked. I looked at the Committee members sitting behind their desks and said to myself, this isn't going to be a circus, it could get kind of rough. The hearing was gaveled open by the Honorable L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. After the introductions we were seated at the head of the table with Dr. Brown. Dr. Hynek was to Dr. Brown's right and I was to his left. Midway through Dr. Brown's statement to the Committee, Chairman Rivers interrupted him and asked, "Mr. Secretary, let me ask you this. Should this be an executive session?" Secretary Brown replied, "No nothing I have said so far has been classified, and nothing I will say." The Chairman asked, "Is there any reason to keep this executive? I think we have a lot of people outside of the door. Let them come in." With that statement, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee pulled a political coup from which NICAP and the UFO buffs have never recovered. L. Mendel Rivers had pulled the rug from under the advocates of a public hearing. The hearing was completely open to the news media and to the public. NICAP, in their future news bulletins would cry "foul"; however, the hearing on Unidentified Objects was a matter of Congressional record and all the proceedings were printed in document number 55 dated April 15, 1966.

THE HEARING

The hearing proceeded extremely well. Dr. Brown was answering the questions beautifully and then Chairman Rivers asked Dr. Hynek, “Is there anything you would like to say to us”? Dr. Hynek: “Mr. Chairman, the press has recently treated me rather unkindly.” The Chairman: “You should be chairman of this committee.” Dr. Hynek: “The press has described me as “a puppet of the Air Force and has stated that I say only what the Air Force tells me to say. I would like to do something which may be a little daring, and read to the Committee a statement I have prepared which has certainly not been dictated by the Air Force.” General Corbin was seated behind me and to my left. When Hynek announced that he would make a statement, I heard General Corbin say, “Oh crap!”. He didn’t say it very loud but I knew he was upset. Nobody really gave a damn whether Hynek made a statement or not. I remember being extremely angry. I wasn’t angry because of his profound statement; the truth of the matter is that Hynek has never made a meaningful or profound statement

with regards to UFO's since I've been on the program. I was angry because I felt he had been disloyal to General Corbin. He had told Corbin that he was not going to make a statement and then he pulled out a five page neatly typed statement from his briefcase. As far as I was concerned, he had deliberately and with premeditated motives lied to General Corbin. I had been losing confidence in Hynek for some time and after the hearing he never regained my original confidence.

As the hearing proceeded, Congressman Stratton from New York, got on the photo kick. Life magazine had printed some photos of alleged UFO's. A couple of them had been taken in Australia. The congressional record indicates the following testimony:

Mr. Stratton: Has anybody examined them in the Air Force?

Major Quintanilla: Mr. Stratton, we have asked for the negatives of those pictures, but the citizens will not turn them over to the Air Force. You cannot force them to turn them over to the Air Force.

Mr. Stratton: They turned them over to Life magazine, haven't they?

Major Quintanilla: You will have to ask them. I don't know, sir.

Mr. Stratton: What has Life got?

Major Quintanilla: I don't know, sir.

Mr. Stratton: Have you examined those particular instances without finding what Life has? Major Quintanilla: The Air Force has not investigated these instances, sir, and the photographs have not been examined because the negatives have never been turned over to the Air Force. Mr. Stratton: You have not been in touch with Life magazine to find out what they have? Major Quintanilla: No sir, we have not.

At this point, Congressman Stratton was starting to get to me. I considered his questions irrelevant and political. Hell, I didn't go around the country tracking down every alleged UFO photo which appeared in National magazines. I also didn't track down UFO photos which appeared in girlie magazines. Some of those photos were more realistic than the ones which appeared in Life magazine.

Mr. Stratton: Don't you think it might be wise to undertake to make an effort to find out whether Life has the negatives, for example, or whether they have been in touch with the individuals concerned?

I was just about to reply to Stratton's question when Secretary Brown whispered to me, "tell him yes", and I immediately replied, "yes sir". I was going to reply completely different than what is in the record, but all it would have done was prolong the hearing. The rest of the questions were straight forward and Chairman Rivers kept the hearing on a business-like basis. We adjourned at 11:55 a.m. and Dr. Brown was immediately besieged by reporters and TV cameramen. I picked up my briefcase and scooted out the side door. My Monumental Happening had just come to a close and everything else that happened in the program after that would be anticlimactic.

DR. JAMES McDONALD MAKES THE SCENE

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Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

Dr. James Edward McDonald is a professor of Meteorology and Climatology and a Senior Physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona. Up until May 20, 1966, I had never heard of James E. McDonald, however, our paths were to cross numerous times during the ensuing years. McDonald had called General Cruikshank and requested permission to review everything we had on Project Blue Book. He arrived at Wright-Patterson on Jun 6, 1966, and we didn't hit it off from the beginning. People don't normally affect me this way, however, I formed an opinion about the professor from the University of Arizona almost immediately. McDonald had access to all of the information in Project Blue Book files. He was critical from the very beginning because he had already formed a preconceived opinion of the project. The evaluations didn't suit him and he spent hours reviewing the records. He was a believer of extraterrestrial visitation and no amount of evidence could convince him otherwise. He was looking for flaws in our analysis of the information. He was also quite critical of the Project Blue Book Consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek. McDonald accused my staff and I of not giving the Extraterrestrial hypothesis adequate consideration. He was wrong, but he was not easily convinced. I remember driving him to the club that evening and we got into a shouting session in my car, again on the extraterrestrial hypothesis. By this time, I was firmly convinced that McDonald was going to be a pain in the ass and was going to cause me countless hours of needless work. I called up Lt. Col. Maston Jacks at SAFOI the next day and asked him what he knew about Dr. McDonalds. He said he didn't know him personally, however, he had been stationed at SAC Headquarters when the professor had taken it upon himself to question the Air Force's wisdom in placing Titan Missiles in the Tucson area. Jacks recalled that McDonald had put the Air Force on the firing line in the summer of 1960. He claimed that the Air Force was dealing in half truths and was deliberately deceiving the people. He was to make that charge again years later about the UFO program. The same charge, but a different scene and a different set of bad guys. McDonald was grabbing the headlines for awhile, but the Air Force and the

people of Tucson won the battle and the Titans were placed in position without any damaging incidents. So James E. McDonald was back in circulation with a different crusade and this time he believed he was loaded for bear.

McDONALD CONFRONTS GENERAL CRUIKSHANK

On the second day of his visit, he requested an audience with General Cruikshank. He also requested to see Dr. Anthony Cacioppo, our Chief Scientist. Dr. Cacioppo was Cruikshank's chief expert on all scientific matters. Dr. Cacioppo knew the UFO program better than any civilian in the Foreign Technology Division (formerly ATIC). ATIC became FTD on July 1, 1963. McDonald had his personal talk with Cruikshank in his office and I was left outside twiddling my thumbs. McDonald had a briefcase full of impressive looking documents, papers, books, articles, etc. Every once in awhile I would catch some gist of the conversation, but never enough to make sense. I wasn't at all happy with the amount of time that McDonald was spending with Cruikshank. My total time spent talking to Cruikshank never even came close to what McDonald had used in just one visit. McDonald scared the

living hell out of Cruikshank. He told the General that he was going back to Washington and was going to present his case before numerous congressman. As soon as McDonald left the office, Cruikshank hit the panic button. It is sad to see a tiger reduced to a pussy cat, but that is exactly what McDonald did to Cruikshank. From that day forward, I lost all respect for the “tiger”. Cruikshank did something that no Commanding Officer before him or after him did to me or to the project. He never gave us a chance to have our day in court to answer the charges which McDonald made against the project. He accepted McDonald’s criticism of the project as fact and he proceeded from there. It was because of Cruikshank and McDonald that a few months later I decided to submit my request for transfer.

THE BLUE RIBBON INVESTIGATION

Without consulting me or the Pentagon, General Cruikshank decided to appoint a Blue Ribbon Panel of three officers to investigate Project Blue Book. I wasn’t formally informed of the investigation, but I knew what was going on and remember saying, “Another God damned investigation. When are they going to leave us alone?” Cruikshank was transferred to the west coast in August of 1966, but the damage had already been done and his momentous decision turned out to be a waste of time, money, and resources. The panel was composed of Colonel Lou De Goes, top notch administrator, Little All American, and a number one hand ball player; Lt. Colonel Boyce Smith, dogmatic technician, excellent administrator, top notch meteorologist, and a lousy golfer; and Major Muarry Dolan, an excellent physicist, a dedicated professional officer, and a very unimpressive piccolo player. This panel was authorized to use outside facilities and to call on consultants for help they needed. The investigation was thorough, but hell, we’d been investigated before and it wasn’t anything new. My staff and I weren’t supposed to know what was going on, but sooner or later they’d have to come to us for the records and we’d be able to put the pieces together. This is exactly what happened, the panel came to our office and requested that certain UFO records be turned over to them for review. It was

quite evident what had happened. The records that the panel wanted were those records which the hobby clubs had claimed were of paramount importance to prove their cause, and the extraterrestrial hypothesis. Most of these sightings had received newspaper coverage and were well known to the UFO buffs. I suspect that McDonald gave Cruikshank or Lou De Goes a list of the cases, because they're all cases which the UFO buffs like to write about. The panel asked for such cases as Chites-Whitted; Killian; 1952, Washington, D.C.; Ravenna, Ohio; Socorro, N.M.; Dexter and Hillsdale Michigan; Oklahoma; Heflin; Angleton, Texas; St. Clair County; Moneta, Virginia; Reeves in Florida; Exeter, N.H.; Leveland, Texas; Red Bluff, California; and approximately on hundred and fifty other cases. All of the cases that they asked for were well publicized and in most cases the UFO buffs didn't like the Air Force evaluation. The study was supposed to last three months, but it lasted closer to six months. Cruikshank wasn't around to receive his dearly beloved report, he had already transferred to the west coast and had a top position in the Minute Man Program. Colonel Raymond S. Sleeper became the Foreign Technology Division Commander in September, 1966. He received the panel report and filed it someplace; because I never heard any more about it after that. The

investigation was an internal affair, therefore, the report went directly from the panel to the Commander. The outcome of the whole report was that the panel was satisfied with Project Blue Book's performance and they gave us a clean bill of health. Most people in the organization and [MISSING SENTENCE] place between June and December of 1966. During this investigation, Dr. McDonald managed to make another trip to Wright-Patterson. This time McDonald was more interested in talking to members of the panel, but they were scheduled for trips to Rand and to the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), so he never got to talk to them on that trip.

QUINTANILLA REQUESTS A TRANSFER

De Goes asked me to take care of McDonald in his absence and I went through the ceiling like a cork screw. I didn't like McDonald's attitude and he didn't like my plausible explanations so why should I escort him around and baby sit with him. I was really fed up with the whole works at that time. On July 8, 1966, I asked Marilyn to take a letter. I addressed the following letter to the Commander:

Request consideration to be given to the reassignment of the undersigned to another organization in the Air Force or to another Deputy within FTD. I have been in my present position for three years and have recently lost any objective viewpoint, which I had possessed, in the analysis of reports dealing with Unidentified Flying Objects (flying saucers). I personally do not believe reports dealing with UFO sightings represent vehicles from outer space.

I believe that three years in a job of this type should be enough for any officer. I am tired of fighting off my inquisitors, the press, magazine writers, radio, T.V., and professional agitators. I would appreciate it if you would seriously consider my transfer.

When I got through dictating the letter, I could see tears in Marilyn's eyes, so I left the office. I came back about a half an hour later and the letter was on my desk ready for my signature. I signed it immediately and sent it forward. That afternoon, when everyone was gone I received a call from Dr. Cacioppo's office. He wanted to talk to me before I went home, could I drop by his office? I didn't waste any time getting to his office and I'm sure he could see how distraught I was. The first thing he said was, "What's wrong, Hector"? And I told him exactly how I felt and he understood and he promised to help. I still wanted a transfer and he promised to help in that department also. General Cruikshank had already signed out of the organization and the new Commander was not scheduled to arrive until late August; so my letter ended up on the interim Commander's desk, Colonel Florian Holm. Colonel Holm knew my problem and how I felt, so he gave Big John "AC" Garcia, our personnel officer, the task of getting me transferred out of the organization. John came into my office and asked, "What's the matter, Quint?" I looked up at him and said, "Get me out of here, John, get me the hell out of here, I've had it". Then he remarked, "the big man says you can go, where would you like to go?" I told him that I wanted to go to Eglin, Patrick, or Albuquerque in that order. John had his contacts and he got me a tentative assignment to Eglin, but the transfer never came through. The

Pentagon heard about my impending assignment and they asked that my transfer be held in abeyance and so I stayed with the Project until it was cancelled.

THE AIR FORCE'S NUMBER ONE CRITIC

I managed to survive McDonald's visit in July, but his criticism of the Project and of the Air Force continued at an accelerated pace. He was making frequent speeches all over the country and the newspapers were giving him copious copy. During this period, he managed to get an audience to listen to his prepared speeches every time he went to Washington and amongst this group there was always a sprinkling of high government workers who went to listen to him out of curiosity. He became a UFO consultant to NICAP and this gave him added prestige in his new field of expertise. 1967 was a banner year for Dr. McDonald and he was quoted frequently in the newspapers. The April 6, 1967 Arizona Daily Wildcat quotes him as saying that, "The public has been mislead by Air Force reports. I feel that the Air Force has misled us for twenty years. I equate almost all of that misrepresentation to incompetence and superficiality on the part of the Air Force investigators involved with Project Blue Book and its forerunners. Nobody there with any strong scientific competence is looking into the problem. In fact, I have found no one connected with the Air Force program who was at all familiar with details of the past history of the UFO problem. There is, of course, lots of expertise and competence at the disposal of the Air Force; they just haven't utilized any of it on the UFO problem." He was also quoted in the same article as saying, "NICAP and several other independent and private groups unofficially have been investigating the problem for many years, and I regard their methods and results as vastly superior to those of Project Blue Book within the United States Air Force. Incidentally, I have made this same statement to the Air Force." McDonald made the latter statement to me and I accepted it as his biased opinion and he let it go at that. I consider my opinion, with regards to the UFO problem, far superior to his. I consider McDonald's constant

prolific writings of the alleged UFO problem to be a pure waste of time. There is no UFO problem, consequently, the money, time, resources, and intellectual discussions spent on this subject could not best be utilized in raising the standard of existence for the Mexicans, Indians, Negroes, Puerto Ricans, etc. I've also often said to myself, "God damned, if McDonald would only exert his energies and drive in the right direction, he'd be a phenomena in itself." I sincerely believe this. He is intelligent, dogmatic, thorough, and dedicated. If he would set his mind to it, he could ease the plight of the American Indian in no time at all, after all, he's living in their territory. He'd give the Bureau of Indian Affairs fits, day and night. To each his own; it's a damn shame that so much talent is going to waste.

Some place along McDonald's life, he acquired an intense dislike for the United States Air Force. He has continued to criticize this branch of the service with intense emotion. On April 22, 1967, he presented a speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, D.C. The title of his speech was "UFO's: Greatest Scientific Problem of Our Times?" McDonald discussed a little bit of everything in his presentation. He touched on the Robertson panel report, Air Force Regulation 200-2, the Conspiracy Hypothesis, the scientists view on UFO's, the nature of the UFO evidence, the need for a Congressional investigation, the University of Colorado Program, the transfer

of research responsibility, the global nature of the problem, some illustrative UFO reports, and then he inserted some editorial comments. His speech had a little bit for everybody, but it didn't really cause much of a ripple among the newspaper editors. Maybe two of his concluding paragraphs had something to do with this. He remarked that, "Scattered through the comments just cited, one finds remarks indicating that there may be a few editors who are speculating on whether the UFO's are extraterrestrial in origin. I believe, on the basis of my extensive study of the UFO problem, that this hypothesis must, in fact, now be given serious scientific evaluation". He didn't grab any headlines with his speech, but after his presentation he remarked to one of the reporters that in 1953 the CIA had instructed the Air Force to adopt a systematic policy of debunking "flying saucers". This is nothing but pure crap. He took a sentence out of context from the Robertson panel report, and expanded it completely out of proportion. The truth of the matter is that the CIA has never been actively involved in the UFO program. Passively, they convened the Robertson Panel and that was the end of their participation. It's fashionable to rip into the CIA, but in this particular case, I think they showed astute judgment by not involving their time and resources into this Air Force program.

Dr. Donald H. Menzel, Harvard University, also presented a paper before the American Society of Newspaper Editors. The title of his paper was "UFO: Fact or Fiction?" It was an excellent paper, down to earth, factual, enlightening, but it was not at all controversial so his newspaper copy was practically zero. The truth of the matter is that Dr. Menzel, in his study of flying saucers, has never been given the credit which he deserves. He has helped the Air Force program on numerous occasions and for this I wish to thank him. The World of Flying Saucers by Do nald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd is an excellent book on the UFO phenomena.

McDONALD GOES TO AUSTRALIA

Dr. James E. McDonald has not confined his criticism of the Air Force's handling of UFO's to this country. In the summer of 1967, he took a trip to Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania. To top it all off, the office of Naval Research (ONR) sponsored this trip. While McDonald was down under, he made numerous UFO speeches, appeared frequently on television, and granted copious newspaper interviews. I had heard that he was making the trip, but I never paid much attention to it, until I got a call from the Pentagon. Did I know a Dr. James E. McDonald? Hell yes, I knew McDonald. Did I know that he was in Australia criticizing the Air Force UFO program? I replied, "So what's new, he does this all the time". Whenever he criticizes the Air Force or some other scientists, he does it under the guise of traditional science; however, when you criticize him, then this amounts to a personal attack or character assassination. My caller (the reason I didn't know this guy was because he was from the DoD and was not one of my normal contacts) then asked my personal opinion of McDonald and I leveled with him. Whew! Stand by, he'd call me back. He called back a little later and I found out what the problem was. McDonald in some of his interviews had criticized the U.S. Air Force and the government in general for their inept handling of the UFO problem. The Ambassador wanted to know why ONR had sent McDonald to Australia to talk on UFO's and to criticize a sister service. When I learned that the Navy had sponsored his trip, I called them every dirty name in the book. I

never messed into Navy affairs and I didn't want them messing into my program. I was going to write an official letter to the Navy asking for an explanation, but more pressing matters demanded my time; so I never got around to it. The matter of sponsoring McDonald's trip to Australia was brought to the attention of the Navy by another source, but they white-washed the whole thing. The truth of the matter is that McDonald's ONR contract should be brought to the attention of the Government Accounting Office and the two people (McDonald and his contract monitor) involved should be required to reimburse the government for an illegitimate trip. According to the white -wash, McDonald was in Australia on some important atmospheric physics research: however, if the number of UFO speeches, television appearances, and newspaper interviews are indicators of his work, then he spent a hell of a lot of time on UFO's and very little time on atmospheric research. My consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, once asked my permission to take a boondoggle trip to Mexico City. He wanted to study the Mexico City power outages to see if there was any connection with UFO's. I not only said no…but hell, no! He took the trip as a private citizen and he paid his own way. I wanted no part of his trip. I can recognize a boondoggle when it's presented to me. My responsibilities were continental UTC's, not international trips spiced with a few UFO interviews.

THE UFO SYMPOSIUM

McDonald had been busy making UFO speeches during the summer of 1968. He kept bad- mouthing the Air Force, but by this time he had lost a lot of his steam. He did, however, convince the burro (Jack Ass) Club to hear his presentation on Jun 3, 1968. His speech to this group was presented at a luncheon meeting in the Rayburn Building. The significance of this speech is that the Burro Club is composed of Congressional Aides and Congressional Staff Members. The title of McDonald's presentation was "Does Congress Have a Responsibility to Investigate the UFO Problem?" In his presentation he criticized the Air Force and also the University of

Colorado. The University's study wasn't complete yet; but he took pot-shots at them anyway. When I read the presentation which McDonalds had made before the club I braced myself for another one of their investigations. McDonald found a receptive sponsor for an inquiry in Congressman J. Edward Roush, member of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. Roush had for some time been an ally of the UFO groups. They couldn't have a full blown inquiry because of protocol, so they got around this by calling it a "Symposium On Unidentified Flying Objects". The symposium was held in the Rayburn Building on July 29, 1968. Congressman Roush was the chairman and the list of speakers read like a who's who of extraterrestrial hypothesis proponents. I've never seen such a stacked deck in all of my life and the statements and papers presented by these learned gentlemen of science proved the point. Not one of them presented anything significant, or a plan which was worthwhile in pursuing. These high-brow doctors with all their university rhetoric fell flat on their asses and all their high sounding verbiage barely cause a ripple. The newspaper copy which was given to the symposium was practically nil, however, the exposure of these learned gentlemen before such a distinguished congressional group must have been very self-satisfying. I ask, however, who paid for this worthless symposium where the

absence of Air Force personnel was so noticeable? As a matter of interest, Congressman Roush was defeated for re-election in November of 1968 and was replaced by Congressman Adair.

Dr. McDonald is still around, but I'm not exactly sure what his position on the UFO phenomena is these days. I haven't seen his name in the newspapers for the past six months, however, newspaper copy on UFO's during this period has been practically nil. I don't dislike McDonald, it's just that he and I have different points of view towards the UFO phenomena. I consider it a lot of nonsense and he considers it a worthy scientific problem. Even though I haven't earned a Ph.D. degree, I predict that my philosophy will survive the tests and his will go the way of the tube.

PROJECT BLUE BOOK’S SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT

Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

In the beginning there was a consultant and he stayed almost to the very end. The consultant's name was J. Allen Hynek, who is presently the chairman of the Dearborn Observatory at Northeastern University.

First of all, let me clarify one point which I think is very important. Doctor Hynek was Project Blue Book's consultant and not, an Air Force consultant. I bring this out because too frequently the news media has depicted Doctor Hynek as an Air Force consultant and this is totally in error. The Air Force has never asked Dr. Hynek to be its Unidentified Flying Object consultant. The truth of the matter is that the Air Force has never had a UFO consultant. Special Ad Hoc groups have been appointed to look into Project Blue Book, but that was the extent of their consulting. Doctor Hynek was paid by funds allocated to the Foreign Technology Division and his contract was negotiable every year.

The records do not precisely indicate it, however, available correspondence does indicate that Dr. Hynek helped Capt. Robert R. Sneider and Lt. Smith evaluate astronomical cases for the "Sign" and "Grudge" reports. He also helped Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt evaluate cases for Special Report #14 and it was during this period that Hynek became Project Blue Book's consultant. Ruppelt was the project officer from March of 1951 through September of 1953. In the beginning, Dr. Hynek's primary responsibility was to evaluate astronomical cases which were referred to him. Some place along the line, more responsibility was given to him than the contract called for.

I have never been satisfied with the idea that Project Blue Book should have a single paid consultant. I prefer the multi -scientist-consultant concept on an on-call basis. After all, Dr. Hynek's expertise is limited and his knowledge is mostly general, therefore he could not be expected to perform specialized services. He could not compete with Dr. Charles P. Olivier (meteors), Dr. Donald Menzel (inversions, parhelia), Dr. Charles H. Smiley (astronomy), Dr. William Kellog, (meteorology), Dr. Carl Sagan (theory of galactic civilizations), Dr. Edward U. Condon (spectography), Dr. Brian

O’Brien (optics), and this list could go on and on. Dr. Olivier, Dr. Menzel, Dr. Smiley, and Dr. Sagan have helped the project on specific cases and none of these gentlemen have charged the Project one cent for their sacrifices. I have never had an occasion to contact Dr. Kellog, Dr. Condon, and Dr. O’Brien on any specific UFO cases, however, I am sure that all of these gentlemen would have offered their services to solve a difficult problem. Dr. Hynek is not considered an expert in any of these scientific disciplines and yet all of them have been used from time to time in evaluating UFO reports.

THE POLARIZATION BEGINS

I had never heard of Doctor J. Allen Hynek prior to my assignment as the Project Blue Book officer. My predecessor, Lt. Col. Robert J. Friend, introduced me to Dr. Hynek in July 1963. I’ll have to admit that I was awed and impressed the first time that I met Dr. Hynek, however, that feeling diminished proportionally with the number of contacts I had with the good doctor. First of all, let me impress you with the fact that I was in charge of the Project and therefore, had to answer to my

Commander, the Vice-Commander, the Chief Scientist, the Air Force Systems Command, and numerous people in the Pentagon for the operation of the Program. My ass was in a sling and on a number of occasions, because of Hynek's flare for publicity and off-hand remarks, it was bent all out of shape. I was called to task, much more often to answer for his remarks and comments, than I was to answer for mine. Prior to April, 1964, I had very little trouble with Hynek. He complained to me that Dave Moody was not treating him according to his scientific stature or some crap like that. I talked to Dave about it the first couple of times and Dave would come back that he was too busy to baby sit or kiss the Doctor's ass and that if he would get busy and evaluate the cases that were referred to him, that he wouldn't have time to worry about scientific stature. Dr. Hynek and Dave had a thing going and I decided to study it. After I analyzed the situation, I had to agree with Dave. Dr. Hynek would come into the office and he would spend the first couple of hours socializing or gossiping or telling us a lot of nonsense about who was writing books, articles, etc. It was during one of these distracting sessions that I raised my voice and asked Dr. Hynek to confine his visit to case studies and let the rest of the staff proceed with their work.

Our philosophy as to how the program should be administered differed and we began to polarize during the Socorro sighting. I wanted publicity kept at a low key until we could finish the investigation, but he managed to stir up a hornet's nest by making irrelevant remarks. During the first few days of the investigation, the telephone lines to my office were backed up for forty minutes and the lines to the base were backed up for ten or fifteen minutes. By this time the switchboard operators were wishing that I'd move my base of operation to Venus or Mars. They were really very nice and sympathetic, but it created chaos for them on a number of occasions. Sending Hynek to investigate the Socorro incident was my mistake and I began to regret it almost immediately. His part of the investigation didn't add anything significant to the overall report, however, he was now in the national lime-light and he managed to stay there for quite awhile, because the news media

depicted him as the “expert UFO Air Force consultant”. This prestigious title gained him publicity and recognition which he couldn’t possibly get as the chairman of the Dearborn Observatory. Up to this time, Hynek had taken a fairly stable stand with regards to UFO’s and the associated phenomena. As the wind changed the desert, so Hynek began to change and I never knew what was coming next. He embarrassed me and the Air Force on a number of occasions; but I kept my cool in public, and wasted no words with him in private. Time and time again I asked him to clarify his comments and remarks and all I’d get would be a weasel word explanation. I had become concerned because at times I couldn’t believe what I read in print. For example: In April, 1966, Dr. Hynek stated before the House Armed Services Committee that he had twenty cases which he had “certified as well reported” and was unable to explain. In a letter to Science Magazine of October 21, 1966, he stated that, “I have in my files several hundred reports which are real brain teasers and could easily be made the subject of profitable discussion among physical and social scientists alike”. In the December 17, 1966 article of the Saturday Post, Dr. Hynek stated, “of the 15,000 cases that have come to my attention, several hundred are puzzling, and some of the puzzling incidents perhaps one in twenty-five, are bewildering”. According to my calculations, this would come to about sixty cases. I’m not surprised at this statement, some of the cases that were puzzling to him were not at all puzzling to me, Dave Moody,

Bill Marley, or Dr. Menzel. The Post article, which was by-lined by “J. Allen Hynek” was captioned as follows: “For years the Air Force has dismissed them as hoaxes, hallucinations, or misidentifications. Now the Air Forces’ own scientific consultant on Unidentified Flying Objects declares that many of the sightings cannot be so easily explained.” I would like to reiterate that Dr. Hynek was never the Air Force’s consultant on UFO’s. Dr. Hynek wrote an article for Playboy Magazines and his title was “The UFO Gap”. The magazines caption for this article was as follows: “America’s leading ufologist-just back from an international astronomer’s conference behind the iron curtain warns that a new Soviet investigative approach could cost us the race to solve the flying-saucer riddle.” This prognostication, just like all the others he made throughout the years, fell flat on its ass because the Soviets weren’t interested in flying saucers. They didn’t believe in them as a threat or a phenomena. I had been getting queries about his unresolved figures from scientific members and also from the news media, so for the record I wrote a memo and asked Dr. Hynek to identify those cases which he considered unresolved and also to identify the number; was it twenty, sixty, one hundred, or one thousand? Also, would he identify how many of these were Air Force cases and how many were from his own personal file. Just after I had written the memo, I received a block-buster through the mail. The January-February, 1968, issue of the UFO Investigator had just been disseminated through the mail and the front page caption read as follows: “Surprise Warnings: In a courageous new declaration, Dr. J. Allen Hynek-Air Force Chief Scientific consultant on UFO’s has made this surprising disclosure: If the Colorado Project’s conclusion is completely negative-denying UFO reality-he will take the wraps off his personal files of good unexplained cases and make them public.” Once again, he was depicted as the Air Force consultant, which he was not. I make a point of this, because I called this to his attention on numerous occasions, but each time he would advise me that it was the news media who was at fault and not him. Just for the record I never believed him and I always expressed dismay and surprise at such inaccuracies by the

news media. As I said before, I had to make excuses for his remarks and comments, but they always turned out to be a “misquote”. Right after his bomb in the UFO bulletin, I asked for an official position on his unresolved cases. The Pentagon had now become involved in the figure controversy, so Dr. Hynek’s reply had to be addressed to the FTD Chief Scientist. I submit Dr. Hynek’s letter to Dr. Cacioppo in its entirety.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Evanston, Illinois 60201

Department of Astronomy

Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center

27 February 1968

Dr. A. Cacioppo:

I understand that some remarks I have made in the past relative to the number of unsolved cases in the Air Force files and in my personal files have caused some concern and that a clarification has been requested. In particular, references have been made to my statement before the House Armed Services Committee where I said that I had 20 good cases that I couldn't explain. Apparently at other times, I may have used a somewhat different figure, although I do not recollect at the moment in what context. Nonetheless, the misunderstanding occurs solely because the absence of the word "only" has not been noted. I picked "20" more or less out of the air; I could just as well have said 40 or 50, or perhaps even a hundred. After all, I could have said several hundred since in the Air Force statistics themselves there are listed well over 600 cases that are unidentified. But if I have 600 cases then I also have 20 in a sense that a man who has $100 certainly has $3.00.

As one increases the number of stated "unknowns" one necessarily reduces their "quality". When I said 20 I was thinking of the very best, and most puzzling and best documented cases. When one says that there are several hundred unknown cases, one must necessarily include a number of "one-witness" cases and of cases which have not, because of lack of funds and staff, been adequately investigated.

If we want a number, for the sake of having a number, I think we might settle on 50 as a number which I could support. This would include some one-witness, but in all cases it would represent articulate reports, reasonably well-documented, and from witnesses whose reliability there is no overt reason to question.

I hope this sets the matter straight and I am sorry to have caused confusion by perhaps stating different numbers at different times. I might call attention to the fact that in just the 1966 cases officially submitted to the Air Force, there are 32 cases which are classified as "unidentified". Many of these, however, have not been adequately investigated in my opinion, and

might not remain unidentified if thorough treatment had been accorded them. I hope this helps to clear up this little bit of confusion.

Sincerely Yours, J. Allen Hynek

JAH:lp

Cc: Major Hector Quintanilla

John J. Sweeney

I am not going to comment on Dr. Hynek's reply to Dr. Cacioppo's letter except to say I'm sure glad I didn't waste all those years getting a Ph.D. so I could write letters which make statements such as, "If I have 600 cases, then I also have 20 in the sense that a man who has $100.00 certainly has $3.00." If you don't recognize this as a bunch of bull-shit, then you and I didn't go to the same school together. Dr. Cacioppo, myself, and the Pentagon didn't accept his reply as a valid explanation and as far as I know that is the way it stands today. Dave Moody was right, "Bull shit is bull shit no matter who slings it". Dave was an old Navy Swabee and he could recognize it from a long way off.

A head-on confrontation between Dr. Hynek and it was apparent and after the Congressional hearing I was never to trust him again. It came to my attention that on a number of occasions he tried to undermine my official position. Somewhere in the Pentagon, there is a letter addressed to Dr. Harold Brown, Secretary of the Air Force, in which Dr. Hynek recommended that Major Hector Quintanilla Jr., Chief of Project Blue Book, be replaced by Lt. Col. Robert J. Friend, my predecessor. I have a copy of Dr. Brown's reply to Dr. Hynek, it was dated February 7, 1967. Dr. Brown expressed

satisfaction with my work and the following year I received two letters of Commendation, one from General LeBailley and one from General Giller. Dr. Hynek is a prolific letter writer and again wrote to Dr. Brown on May 25, 1967. Hynek sent me a courtesy copy of this letter and in it he suggests that an independent civilian scientific backup group be established to help Blue Book. He stated that such a group could “take the monkey off the Air Force’s back”. The rest of his letter is a bunch of crap. He predicts embarrassment and due consequences for the Air Force. He used to predict such consequences at least once each year and I must admit that as a prognosticator he batted exactly zero. Dr. Hynek’s letter to Dr. Brown is typical of the way he operates. Dr. Brown had already announced that the Air Force was looking for a University to undertake a scientific study of the UFO phenomena, so Hynek recommends something which was already in the mill. Actually, what Hynek was hoping to do was impress Dr. Brown and then have Northwestern University selected as the lead University in the forthcoming UFO study. Hynek wanted to direct the study group and the only way he could do this was to have Northwestern University selected as the lead University. Hynek had asked me and Sara Hunt of SAFOI to put in a plug for Northwestern, however, both of us kept quiet and then watched his political maneuverings go down the tube. Northwestern was never in the running. In the summer of 1966, Dr. Hynek appeared in a talk show in New York and someone in the audience asked him about our file system. Our file system was manual and the cases were filed by date, month, and year. The case reports were cross-indexed and we could usually retrieve a case within a matter of two or three minutes. There was nothing magic about it and it worked for us. When Hynek came back from his trip to the east, he told me how dismayed this individual was that our case files were not mechanized. He suggested that we mechanize the sighting information. I told him that I didn’t think the expense justified the end results. I wasn’t at all impressed with his rhetoric on how he could manipulate the information and what grand and glorious things he could find. He wasn’t satisfied with my attitude, so he took his case to the Pentagon. The Pentagon sent the

recommendation back to me and I told them that for our purposes we didn't need machine files. The Pentagon decided to ask Hynek for an unsolicited proposal and if it was acceptable it would be funded by FTD. They got a proposal and it was a beauty. I laughed like hell when I saw the price tag. To mechanize the files, it would cost FTD in excess of a quarter of a million dollars. This price did not include the cost of maintaining the files after they were mechanized. Needless to say, saner minds prevailed and automating the files became a dead issue. I'll have to admit that I was biased from the beginning and I really never gave it serious consideration. Mechanizing the files meant more people and I wasn't interested in building a monumental empire.

1966 was the year which convinced me that Dr. Hynek had lost his usefulness to the project. I decided to keep his services to a minimum and use him only when it was absolutely necessary. It was during this period that I decided to start referring mostly Astronomical cases to him. This way I could save some of my resources for the unexpected which always seemed to occur in the spring and summer. I also decided to curtail his frequent visits to Wright-Patterson in 1967, because the budget was getting tight. I managed to do both of these successfully, but Dr. Hynek didn't like it at all, although we could accomplish the same amount of case studies on a selected basis.

In October of 1966, the University of Colorado was awarded a contract to study the UFO phenomena and Dr. Hynek was very disappointed because he was not included in their plans. He asked me if he could visit the University of Colorado and talk to them about their study, I wrote him a letter and asked him not to go to the University unless he was invited. Although I had written him a letter asking him to stay away from the Colorado study group, it didn't bother him any; because he went to Denver and met with two members of the study group and Dr. James McDonald. He paid for his trip out of his own private funds.

An underground movement to discredit the Colorado study was afoot and I'm happy to report that it fell flat on its ass. That group could never muster enough support to do any serious damage, however, various members did spread out throughout the country to preach their philosophy. It was never a popular movement among scientists, although one of their members did brag that many, many scientists supported them. I never believed him. If that had been true, the pressure would have reached the top and I would have felt it at my level, but I never did.

Dr. Hynek was interested in the Colorado groups operation from the very beginning. He actually wanted to be an integral part of the group, but this would have brought in a member with a pre-conceived philosophy of the UFO phenomena. For this reason I tried to keep Dr. Hynek away from the Colorado group while they were conducting their study. I didn't like to make a federal case out of it, I just wanted to restrain him, so that they could organize their own investigative techniques and at the same time make their own evaluation. I succeeded to a certain extent, however, at the beginning he did conduct a couple of investigations with the group when they invited him to do so. One of the reasons the group asked him to lead a couple of investigations was to learn of his technique. I didn't interfere, because his technique consisted of talking to witnesses and that is about the extent of his technique. He would come back with all the taped dialogue, or his notes, and we would do all the spade work. In a number of articles

which he has written he has mentioned that the Air Force did not give certain cases the “FBI” treatment. To me, his statements were just a bunch of mumbled words, uttered for the benefit of a receptive audience. He never did submit to me a complete investigative report; a repot in which all details were checked and verified. Anybody can collect information from a witness, however, try checking and verifying that information and that is where the real work comes in. The Air Force didn’t give UFO cases the alleged “FBI” treatment (whatever that means), however, we took great pains in verifying the information, the activity, and in making an honest effort to determine what type of stimulus caused the observer to report a UFO. I don’t think the Condon Committee ever found out what the “FBI” treatment was either, because I don’t remember them mentioning it in their report.

THE TERMINATION

The hand-writing for terminating Dr. Hynek’s contract was on the wall since as far back as the middle of 1966. I had become convinced that Hynek’s association with Project Blue Book was no longer an asset, it had for all practical purposes become a liability. I had given Hynek a free hand in conducting the investigation at Dexter, Michigan, and I was very distressed and extremely dissatisfied

with his formal report. It was not a report that you would normally expect to get from a scientist. I would classify it as sophomoric, incomplete, and inconclusive. Hynek's statement before the congressional hearing further convinced me that he was more interested in other aspects of the UFO phenomena. His interest certainly was not the Air Force UFO program or the scientific aspects of the UFO. His public statements are replete with remarks about the magnitude of the UFO problem. The incident which convinced me that Dr. Hynek was a liability took place on April 17, 1966. Early in the morning of April 17, Deputy Sheriff Dale Spaur and W.L. Neff chased a large domed object, fifty feet across and maybe seventy feet high. The object was purplish-white in color and it was headed towards the east. Spaur and Neff took off after the object and chased it for eight-six miles all the way from the vicinity of Ravenna, Ohio, to the Pennsylvania border. At times, the speed of their police car exceeded one hundred miles per hour. The Ohio papers carried this story for days. The day after the story hit the papers I got in touch with Spaur, Neff, and the police chief of Mantua. I asked them straight-forward questions and they gave me straight-forward answers. I had already began to check with my positive sources. I checked all balloon launchings for western and northern Ohio. I checked all radar stations in northern Ohio for any unusual or experimental airborne vehicles. I checked with Holloman for any super pressure balloon activity in Ohio. I checked the Pentagon for any classified activity, the Space Detection Center for satellites, and the forest rangers for any help they might be able to give me. Everything that I checked was negative except for satellites and the astronomical charts. There were three visible satellites at the time when Spaur first sighted his saucer-shaped craft rising from out of the tree line. The planet Venus was also prominently visible in the east. Spaur and Neff never caught the object, it zoomed off into the sky as daylight approached. This sighting received more than its share of publicity and the newspapers around Ravenna ran a series of articles on UFO's. The interest was high because the gentlemen involved were police officers. This type of situation is extremely ticklish, because you always have a loser. It's a shame that it

has to be this way, but it happens to be a fact of life. Dale Spaur, the newspaper, NICAP, and the sheriff didn't like my evaluation. They exerted pressure on Congressman Stanton and he in turn exerted pressure on the Pentagon. Congressman Stanton wanted me to re-investigate the case, so I drove up to the Portage County courthouse for my interview with Spaur and Neff. The minute I walked into the sheriff's office I could feel a sense of futility. Waiting from me to arrive was Carol Clapp of the Record Courier, two members of NICAP, plus the sheriff. I was to conduct my interview in front of all these people and this was the wrong approach. I concluded my interview and I wasn't at all happy. There were a number of inconsistencies in my second interview, but I could understand this and it really didn't alter my original evaluation. Spaur had been talking to everybody that would listen to him and inconsistencies are going to crop up under this type of atmosphere. Spaur had told me that a few days after he had chased the original object, he had spotted it again while making his rounds at about nine o'clock at night. He told me that he had nicknamed it "Floyd". I drove back to Wright-Patterson with an ominous feeling. I didn't like what was happening to Dale Spaur and yet I was powerless to help him. I called the Pentagon and told them that I didn't find any new evidence which would change my original evaluation. Someone made the remark that Congressman Stanton wasn't going to like it and that statement proved to be true. I had hoped that the publicity on the case would die down, but the Record Courier had a good thing going

and they milked it dry. Also, NICAP was very active around Ravenna and they weren't about to let it die. It has been my experience in cases like this, that the longer publicity drags it out, the worse the principal witness gets hurt. This is exactly what happened to Dale Spaur. A few months after his encounter with the UFO, his life was a disaster. Dale Spaur would never be the same man again. He lost his job, his family, his friends, and he found very little respect among his neighbors. The proponents of extraterrestrial visitation had used Dale Spaur and he wasn't aware of it. When Dr. James E. McDonald visited the Project office in June of 1966, he asked me to reconsider Dale Spaur's case and to place it in the "unidentified" category. Because McDonald was a scientist, I decided out of courtesy to him, to send Dr. Hynek the case file on Spaur's sighting and I asked I him for his advice. I also sent Dr. Hynek NICAP's report on the sighting. A few days later, he replied that he had not personally investigated the sighting, therefore, he was reluctant to give me an evaluation. This struck me as funny, because he frequently evaluated case files without conducting a personal investigation. I knew what the problem was, Carol Clapp and Dr. McDonald were applying pressure and he wasn't about to get caught in the middle. The thing that really drove me up the wall was when he advised me to change my evaluation because the case was "politically hot". He reasoned that a policeman, a Congressman, a professor, a reporter, the biggest hobby club in the United States were all involved and if I didn't change my evaluation they would make life miserable for me. They did make life miserable for me, but I never did change the evaluation. I would have changed the evaluation on scientific merit, but not because of political pressure. Dr. Hynek's political advice convinced me that I really didn't need him as a scientific consultant.

I was in favor of replacing him with four or five consultants; all experts in their scientific fields. I drew up such a list, however, it was never made a matter of record, so it really doesn't exist. The reason for this is that in the summer of 1966 the Secretary of the Air Force asked the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to find a University which would undertake an

independent UFO study. Although the Pentagon had no control over Hynek, they suggested that the Project keep him in case the selected University needed his background experience. Instead of terminating his contract for the next three years. The truth of the matter is that Hynek's contract was renewed in the summer of 1968 for 1969, because the University study was late and would not be completed on schedule. Had the University study been on time, then Hynek's contract would not have been renewed for fiscal year 1969. Dr. Hynek's contract was renewable every fiscal year, so no June 30, 1969, his old contract lapsed and a new one was not drawn up. That is how Project Blue Book lost its consultant. It's ironical that in 1966 Dr. Hynek recommended that I be replaced and in the end I held the option whether to retain him or get rid of him. I didn't wish to retain him, so I just never invited him back. The termination of Dr. Hynek's contract saved the Foreign Technology Division a few thousand dollars every year. Hynek had been well paid for his services as a UFO consultant.

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A PLAN TO END CONTROVERSY ONLY CREATES MORE OF THE SAME

THE SEARCH FOR A UNIVERSITY

You would think that finding a University to undertake an independent study of the UFO phenomena would be easy, but exactly the opposite proved to be true. The only university that was really eager to undertake such a study was Northwestern University and this would have placed Dr. J. Allen Hynek as the Director of the Project. It was the Air Force's intent to have impartial scientists from reputable universities study the UFO phenomena independently and with complete freedom. Those universities which had members on their staff who had publicly expressed strong opinions regarding UFO's would be excluded. This automatically excluded Northwestern University (Dr. J. Allen Hynek), the University of Arizona (Dr. James E. McDonald), and Harvard University (Dr. Donald Menzel). The philosophies and views of these three gentlemen were well-known and the Air Force wished to avoid controversy from all sides. There were numerous capable Universities throughout the country and the following were discussed and given consideration at the preliminary

meetings.

Rensselaer, Troy N.Y. Columbia

New York University Yale

Cornell

University of Dayton Carnegie Tech Utah

Colorado

Wisconsin

Chicago

UCLA

Washington Rice

University of Texas Vanderbilt

Duke

University of Florida Georgia Tech University of Georgia Iowa

Illinois

University of California Oregon

There were and are universities that are aware of the UFO phenomena and will not have anything to do with the Program under any circumstances. Some university presidents were not willing to get involved with the UFO's and would not even discuss the subject. This, I might add, was the typical reaction and the burden of convincing university presidents to discuss and undertake the UFO study was carried by a young broad-shouldered doctor by the name of J. Thomas Ratchford. Dr. Ratchford was a project scientist in the Solid State Sciences Division when he was given the task of selling the program to a reputable university. What the Air Force was trying to accomplish was simple and straight-forward. The following is an extract of the original proposal:

The objective of the research is to significantly advance understanding of phenomena relating to UFO through an interdisciplinary investigation of a wide spectrum of outstanding scientists. The decision to strengthen scientific investigations of UFO's was based on a recommendation by the A.F. Scientific Advisory Board, which reviewed the resources, methods, and findings of Project Blue Book, the Air Force's program to investigate and evaluate UFO reports.

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Air Force objectives in awarding the contract are to obtain (1) a thorough, independent, and objective scientific investigation performed by scientists of the highest competence in research, associated with research organizations of established reputation and possessing the required scientific resources, (2) a full and public report of such an investigation and, (3) recommendations as to what the Air Force should do with regards to UFO reports and Project Blue Book in the future.

The Air Force will provide the principal investigator with all records of reported UFO sightings and their evaluation by the Air Force. Project Blue Book files are available in their entirety. No approval will be required by the Air Force for release of information concerning the investigation, and the university will be the source of information concerning the program and findings under the study.

Dr. Ratchford did a lot of traveling across the country before he was able to get a favorable response. The University of Colorado was interested, if Dr. Edward U. Condon could direct the project. It was a windfall for the Air Force and a triumph for Dr. Ratchford. It was perfect, it was beautiful, and as far as I was concerned, it could not be surpassed. The research facilities around Boulder are fantastic, easily accessible, and the University could draw on available talents if they were needed. In Dr. Condon, we had an accomplished administrator, a patriotic scientist who had worked on the Manhattan Project, a former director of the National Bureau of Standards, a former director of Research for Corning Glass Works, and presently a professor of Physics and a Fellow of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, University of Colorado. Dr. E. U. Condon’s vitae is two pages long. When I heard of our windfall, I was elated, I couldn’t believe our luck. We’d finally gotten someone to study this alleged problem. Dr. Condon has a reputation for being a no nonsense guy, so we had really hit pay dirt. It was touch and go for about five or six weeks, but Tom Ratchford kept on top of the situation, made a number of trips to Colorado, and in the end the University of Colorado agreed to negotiate.

THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ACCEPTS

When the University of Colorado agreed to work towards meeting the Air Force objectives of the study, Secretary Brown made the decision to award the contract to them. He requested that the office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) issue a news release to that effect. I am inserting the original news release in its entirety because I have seen different and capsule versions of this announcement.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 7, 1966

NO. 847-66 OXford 7-5131 (Info) OXford 7-3189 (Copies)

AIR FORCE SELECTS UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO TO INVESTIGATE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTS

The University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, has been selected by the Air Force to conduct independent investigations into unidentified flying object (UFO) reports.

A research agreement, valued at approximately $300,000 is being negotiated with the university by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to analyze phenomena associated with UFO sightings and to make recommendations on the Air Force's methods of investigating and evaluating UFO reports—a program know as Project Blue Book. A report is expected to be made to the Air Force in early 1969.

Dr. Edward U. Condon will direct the scientific phases of the work, while Robert J. Low will serve as project coordinator. Principal investigators working with Dr. Condon will be Franklin E. Roach and Dr. Stuart W. Cook.

Dr. Condon, former director of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), is a professor of physics at Colorado and a fellow of the Joint Laboratory for Astrophysics which is co-sponsored by the university and NBS. Mr. Low is an assistant dean of the university's graduate school. Dr. Cook is chair man of the university's psychology department, and Dr. Roach is an astrophysicist with the Environmental Science Services Administration.

Colorado is expected to select several other universities to take part in the research. These and other consultants will bring the number of scientists involved to over 100.

The National Academy of Sciences has indicated its willingness to assist by appointing a panel—at the time the Colorado report becomes available to the Air Force—to review the investigating team's work. This panel will not be part of the investigating team, but will provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation.

In announcing the selection, Air Force Secretary Harold Brown said, "We are more than pleased to be able to place this grant with respected individuals in a university of such high standing in the scientific community. Additionally, the location of the university should prove

invaluable to the investigators, since the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the research headquarters of the Environmental Science Services Administration are located at Boulder. These organizations conduct research on the properties of man's natural environment, specializing in the physical characteristics of the atmosphere and the near-space medium."

Air Force Project Blue Book files, as well as any other UFO information in possession of the Air Force, will be made available to the team. Additionally, all Air Force installations within the U.S. will assist the team if requested. The investigators will, however, conduct their research independently of and without direction from the Air Force.

The decision to enter into a research agreement for this work was based on a recommendation of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board which completed a review of the resources, methods, and findings of Project Blue Book earlier this year. While complimenting the air Force on the organization of Project Blue Book, the Board recommended that the program be expanded to include investigation of selected sightings by independent scientists.

Within the Department of Defense, the Air Force has the responsibility of investigating UFO reports. The Air Force has been investigating such reports since 1948 under its role of air defense of the United States, and the responsibilities of receiving, investigating, and evaluating UFO reports.

END

(DOD Release No. 388-66, May 9, 1966, refers.)

DR. E.U. CONDON

As soon as Dr. Condon and Bob Low had organized a nucleus of working investigators and evaluators, they requested a briefing from Project Blue Book. The briefing took place at the University of Colorado on November 21, 1966. My assistant, 1st Lt. William F. Marley, Jr., and I briefed the Condon Committee on the Status of the Project. I discussed the chronological history of the UFO program since its inauguration, while Lt.

Marley discussed the status of current UFO cases. After our presentations there were many questions that we answered for the Committee. By the way, Lt. Marley

was a metallurgist and a graduate of Virginia Military Institute. I stole him from one of the other sections and he turned out to be a cotton-picking gem. I made an observation of the University group and I inserted it in my trip report. It went as follows: “It became apparent that the University group was extremely naïve with regards to the complexity of the UFO program, however, the learning cycle for these gentlemen should be quite rapid and they should be productive within a short period of time.” My observation turned out to be correct, because by January 1967, the group was well versed on the complexity and enormity of the problem. I could sense this by the questions which the group was now asking the Project Office. I returned to the University of Colorado on January 18, 1967. Dr. Condon wanted another briefing and this time I left Lt. Marley behind to take care of the shop. If I needed anything, I could pick up the phone and get Bill to send it to me right away. Everything went along fine and our discussions were fruitful, but I got a slight jolt at an evening cocktail party. I had been invited to a party given in honor of the attendees to the “Fluid Mechanics” symposium. I was wearing my uniform because I was on temporary duty; so I was very conspicuous. The jolt came, when a number of these learned gentlemen of science came up to me and voiced their opinions with regards to Dr. Condon’s wisdom in accepting the challenge of the UFO study. Without exception, they expressed their concern that Dr. Condon would be hurt no matter what conclusions were reached in the study. All of these scientists knew Dr. Condon well and had on some occasions given thought to the UFO phenomena. On the way home, I remember saying to myself, “My God, what have you guys done to this man who has contributed so much to science.” I said those words or something like them on a number of other occasions before the study was finished. In the end, Dr. Condon excelled again, and rose above his critics and detractors while they feel by the wayside. Charlatans, phonies, and mediocre took their turn at undermining him or his efforts but history will judge his study was an honest attempt to place an emotional subject in its proper perspective.

On my second trip to Boulder, I got a treat which I had been looking forward to for a long time. I frequently called NORAD for Radar and Space information. I knew my contacts name, but I had never met them personally and now my opportunity was right around the corner. Dr. Ratchford and Bob Hippler had arranged for NORAD to five Dr. Condon's group a complete briefing. The briefing was to run the gamut from Unclassified Material to the very highest security classification. The group was met by Major General Oris B. Johnson and after his welcome he turned us over to his briefing officers. All of us in the group heard information which we had not heard before and we also learned a number of things which none of us will ever be able to discuss. It was a first class eye opener and all of us were quite impressed. After the briefings and review of some operational film, we were invited to walk through and to talk to the analyst in Cheyenne mountain. This is where the action takes place and it's an exciting little hole. The operation is first class and the gentlemen who are manning the equipment and looking for the first signs of danger are dedicated people. I personally am very proud of them. I was impressed with their computer rigs and their up-date techniques. I was very happy with the trip and I was glad that Dr. Ratchford and Col. Hippler had set the meeting up.

THE COMMITTEE ASKS FOR CASES

Now that the preliminary discussions were over, the group was ready to get down to serious business and study individual cases. Dr. David Saunders made a trip to the Project office and spent three days just going through the case files and tagging those cases which the group wanted to study. The cases which Saunders tagged were sent to the Base Reproduction Center for duplication. The cases were reproduced in their entirety and nothing was left out. On his first trip Dr. Saunders picked out about two hundred cases. Later on, Bob Low also made a trip and he tagged a whole stack of cases. These were also reproduced and mailed to the Condon group. A good portion of the cases which were selected were those cases which at one time or another had received wide-spread publicity in the Communications Media. The Condon group was supplied with a list of alleged controversial cases, by NICAP and these cases were reproduced for their study. In these particular cases, the Condon group had the Air Force file and the NICAP file for their study. This information was coded and mechanized for subsequent use. I never saw the NICAP files, however, I do know that the Colorado group did use their information in the study. They also used that information which they collected themselves in their personal investigations. During this period there was frequent communication between my office and Dr. Condon’s group. They would ask for certain case files, movies, photos, artifacts, and we would supply whatever we had in our possession. We were determined to cooperate with Dr. Condon’s group and we gave them everything we had and I say that we never kept anything from them. I had good rapport with Dr. Condon’s group and it lasted for the life of the study.

DR. CONDON HAS INTERNAL PROBLEMS

Dr. Condon had some internal personnel problems with three members of his group. I could foresee two of his problems, but I was not going to meddle into the internal affairs of Dr. Condon’s group. I could foresee the

trouble just by the type of questions which two members of his group asked. I have been asked certain questions so frequently, that instinctively I can tell the line of questions which will follow. I remember telling Bill Marley that Dr. Condon was going to have trouble with two me3mbers of his staff. I figured that Dr. Condon would have problems because of their personal philosophies with regards to UFO's however, this was not the reason they were discharged. Look Magazine, in their May 14, 1968 issue, published an article which depicted Dr. Condon as the bad guy and the two gentlemen which were discharged from his staff as the good guys. The whole thing was played up completely out of proportion to the amount of space it deserved. Dr. James E. McDonald supplied Look Magazine with a letter which was extracted from one of the files at the University and the author tried to portray that as a conspiracy which had taken place. This was not true and the article smelled of nothing but yellow journalism. A couple of congressmen who got excited over any article that was pro-UFO, I had expected an avalanche of critical letters, but it never materialized and if I remember correctly, I had a total of six letters and the language that was used was nothing like what I had expected. SAFOI had also geared itself to answer a whole bunch of angry letters from irate citizens, but it never happened. The article never caused the kind of controversy or interest that it was

intended to cause. NICAP was elated over the Look article, but what the hell, it didn't take much to please them.

THE COLORADO STUDY GROUP HAD CRITICS

Dr. Condon's report was not due to be finished until the latter part of 1968, however, as early as the spring of 1968 there was a movement to undermine his work. In December, 1967, a small group of professors met in Denver, Colorado. My project consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, was part of this group. Also, two members of this group belonged to Dr. Condon's staff at the time. Another member of this select group was my number one critic, Dr. James E. McDonald from the University of Arizona. In the spring of 1968, one of the attendees of this group wrote a letter to Dr. Frederick Seitz, President of the National Academy of Sciences, and criticized the Colorado project and their forthcoming report. The National Academy of Sciences was the agency which was to review Dr. Condon's report. The letter to President Seitz didn't cause a ripple, how in the hell can you comment on or criticize a report which hadn't been written or edited. This letter is typical of how the pro-UFO groups work. They load up a shotgun with buckshot, fire it, and hope that the spray will hit some sensitive spot which will five [sic] their cause some free and biased publicity. At this particular time, the UFO critics and hobby clubs were suffering from lack of favorable publicity and they were grasping for any events which took place during this time, however, the UFO disciples were busy making speeches for a lucrative fee. It was during this time, July 29, 1968, that the Committee on Science and Astronautics held their "Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects". As I said before, this symposium was stacked with believers in the extraterrestrial theory. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, my consultant, made a statement before this group and the first paragraph is as follows: "My name is J. Allen Hynek. I am a professor of Astronomy at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, where I serve as chairman of the department of Astronomy and Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center. I have also served for many years, and still do, as scientific consultant to the

U.S. Air Force on Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFO's. Today, however, I am speaking as a private citizen and scientist and not as a representative of the Air Force". This statement is contained in the Congressional document number 97-818, Air Force records indicate that Dr. J. Allen was never a UFO consultant for the United States Air Force. He was a UFO consultant to Project Blue Book and he was paid from those funds. Dr. Hynek again tried to pass himself off as an Air Force consultant, which is a prestigious title that is not deserved by a mere project consultant.

This period was a busy one for the University of Colorado group. They were busy putting their report together and hoping to meet their deadline. It soon became apparent to them that the report was too voluminous and that the established deadline was going to have to slip. I was disappointed, however, I would rather read a complete comprehensive report, than a shoddy, incomplete, meaningless one. Besides, as far as I was concerned, the future of the UFO in America depended a great deal in what Dr. Condon had to say and what he found in his study. I had hoped that Dr. Condon would finish his report before the new administration took office, but the report was not released to the Air Force until the second week of January, 1969.

THE REPORT GOES DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

I had no prior knowledge of the release date of the report until two hours before it arrived in Washington, D.C. Dr. Ratchford called me from his office at the Office of Applied Research (OAR) and told me that he was on his way to Dulles to pick up the report. Dr. Condon had placed the report on a plane in Denver and it was flown direct to Washington. A panel of members from the National Academy of Sciences was to convene in Washington to review Dr. Condon's report. I don't think anyone in the Air Force knew who the members of the panel were going to be and I don't think it really mattered to any of us. We were anxious to read the report and to have the panel review it and pass its judgment. The panel completed its review of the report in private and then released its findings to the public and to the Air Force. The members of the review panel were as follows:

Gerald M. Clemence, Chairman Yale University

H.R. Crane

University of Michigan

David M. Dennison

University of Michigan

Wallace C. Fenn

University of Rochester

H. Keffer Hartline

The Rockefeller University E.R. Hilgard

Stanford University

Mark Kac

The Rockefeller University Francis W. Reichelderfer

Washington, D.C.

William W. Rubey

University of California at Los Angeles C.D. Shane

Santa Cruz, California

Oswald G. Villard, Jr.

Stanford University

SAFOI had decided to release the complete report and the comments from the National Academy of Sciences on January 9, 1969. The information was to be released to all the communications media at the same time. Somehow, the New York Times released the information a few hours before the rest of the communications media and that is where I got my information with regards to the findings and conclusions of the report. I didn’t get the complete report of the National Academy of Sciences comments until two days later.

Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

The National Academy of Sciences comments were directed to the Honorable Alexander A. Flax, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. The cover letter was signed by Dr. Frederic Seitz, President of the National Academy of Sciences and it contained the following pertinent remarks.

As you know, a final draft of this report was made available to the panel on November 15, 1968. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Gerald Clemence the panel has devoted substantial time and effort to a careful review of the scope, methodology, and findings, of the Colorado study group and has prepared and unanimously approved the attached report, which I am pleased to transmit on behalf of the panel.

The Academy accepted this task because of its belief in the importance of making available to the government and the public a careful assessment of the scientific significance of UFO phenomena which have been variously interpreted both in this country and abroad.

Substantial questions have been raised as to the adequacy of our research and investigation programs to explain or to determine the nature of these sometimes puzzling reports of observed phenomena. It is my hope that the Colorado report, together with our panel review, will be helpful to you and other responsible officials in determining the nature and scope of any continuing research effort in this area.

Finally, may I add that the report of the reviewing panel was prepared and is being made available for the sole purpose of assisting the government in reaching a decision on its future course of action. Its use in whole or in part for any other purpose would be incompatible with the purpose of the review and the conditions under which it was conducted.

From the very beginning, Secretary Brown had insisted that any independent study of the UFO phenomena be reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Condon had accepted this from the beginning

and if the Academy had refused to review the report, then he would never have undertaken the project. The Academy panel had been charged with the responsibility of providing an independent assessment of the scope, methodology, and findings of the University of Colorado study. In order for the panel to accomplish its task, they found it necessary to familiarize themselves with various scientific points of view which had been presented in a number of publications, reports, papers, and documents. In their review of the Colorado study, the panel substantially agreed with the report's conclusions and findings. The reports conclusions, findings, and recommendations are as follows:

Section I

Conclusions and Recommendations Edward U. Condon

We believe that the existing record and the results of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects of the University of Colorado, which are presented in detail in subsequent sections of this report, support the conclusions and recommendations which follow.

As indicated by its title, the emphasis of this study had been in attempting to learn from UFO reports anything that could be considered as adding to scientific knowledge. Our general conclusion is that nothing had come from the study of UFO's in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge. Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFO's probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby.

It has been argued that this lack of contribution to science is due to the fact that very little scientific effort has been put on the subject. We do not agree. We feel that the reason that

there has been very little scientific study of the subject is that those scientists who are most directly concerned, astronomers, atmospheric physicists, chemists, and psychologists, having had ample opportunity to look into the matter, have individually decided that UFO phenomena do not offer a fruitful field in which to look for major scientific discoveries.

This conclusion is so important, and the public seems in general to have so little understanding of how scientists work, that some more comment on it seems desirable. Each person who sets out to make a career of scientific research, chooses a general field of broad specialization in which to acquire proficiency. Within that field he looks for specific fields in which to work. To do this he keeps abreast of the published scientific literature, attends scientific meetings, where reports on current progress are given, and energetically discusses his interests and those of his colleagues both face-to-face and by correspondence with them. He is motivated by an active curiosity about nature and by a personal desire to make a contribution to science. He is constantly probing for error and incompleteness in the efforts that have been made in his fields of interest, and looking for new ideas about new ways to attack new problems. From this effort he arrives at personal decisions as to where his own effort can be most fruitful. These decisions are personal in the sense that he must estimate his own intellectual limitations, and the limitations inherent in the working situation in which he finds himself, including limits on the support of his work, or his involvement with other pre-existing scientific commitments. While individual errors of judgment may arise, it is generally not true that all of the scientists who are actively cultivating a given field of science are wrong for very long.

Even conceding that the entire body of “official” science might be in error for a time, we believe that there is no better way to correct error than to give free reign to the ideas of individual scientists to make decisions as to the directions in which scientific progress is most likely to be made. For legal work sensible people seek an attorney, and for medical treatment sensible

people seek a qualified physician. The nations surest guarantee of scientific excellence is to leave the decision-making process to the individual and collective judgment of its scientists.

Scientists are no respecters of authority. Our conclusion that the study of UFO reports is not likely to advance science will not be uncritically accepted by them. Nor should it be, nor do we wish it to be. For scientists, it is our hope that the detailed analytical presentation of what we were able to do, and of what we were unable to do, will assist them in deciding whether or not they agree with our conclusions. Our hope is that the details of this report will help other scientists in seeing what the problems are and the difficulties of coping with them.

I f they agree with our conclusions, they will turn their valuable attention and talents elsewhere. If they disagree, it will be because our report has helped them reach a clear picture of wherein existing studies are faulty or incomplete and thereby will have stimulated ideas for more accurate studies. If they do not get such ideas and can formulate them, clearly, we have no doubt that support will be forthcoming to carry on with such clearly-defined, specific studies. We think that such ideas for work should be supported.

Some readers may think that we have no wandered into a contradiction. Earlier, we said that we do not think study of UFO reports is likely to be a fruitful direction of scientific advance; now we have just said that persons with good ideas for specific studies in this field should be supported. This is no contradiction. Although we conclude after nearly two years of intensive study, that we do not see any fruitful lines of advance from the study of UFO reports, we believe that any scientist with adequate training and credentials who does come up with a clearly defined, specific proposal fro study should be supported.

What we are saying here was said in a more general context nearly a century age by William Kingdon Clifford, a great English mathematical physicist. In his “Aims and Instruments of Scientific Thought” he expressed himself this way:

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Remember, then, that (scientific thought) is the guide of action; that the truth which it arrives at is not that which we can ideally contemplate without error, but that which we may act upon without fear; and you cannot fail to see that scientific thought is not an accompaniment or condition of human progress, but human progress itself.

Just as individual scientists may make errors of judgment about fruitful directions for scientific effort, so also any individual administrator or committee which is charged with deciding on financial support of research proposals may also make an error of judgment. This possibility is minimized by the existence of parallel channels, for consideration by more than one group, of proposals for research projects. In the period since 1945, the federal government has evolved flexible and effective machinery for giving careful consideration by more than one group, of proposals from properly qualified scientists. What to some may seem like duplicated machinery actually acts as a safeguard against errors being made by some single official body. Even so, some errors could be made but the hazard is reduced nearly to zero.

Therefore, we think that all of the agencies of the federal government, and the private foundations as well, ought to be willing to consider UFO research proposals along with the others submitted to them on an open-minded, unprejudiced basis. While we do not think at present that anything worthwhile is likely to come of such research each individual case ought to be carefully considered on its own merits.

This formulation carries with it the corollary that we do not think that at this time the federal government ought to set up a major new agency, as some have suggested, for the scientific study of UFO’s. This conclusion may not be true for all time. If, by the progress of research based on new ideas in this field, it then appears worthwhile to create such an agency, the decision to do so may be taken at that time.

We find that there are important areas of atmospheric optics, including radio wave propagation, and of atmospheric electricity in which present knowledge is quite incomplete. These topics came to our attention in connection with the interpretation of some UFO reports, but they are also of fundamental scientific interest, and they are relevant to practical problems related to the improvement of safety of military and civilian flying.

Research efforts are being carried out in these areas by the Department of Defense, the Environmental Science Services Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and by universities and nonprofit research organizations such as the National Center for Atmospheric Research, whose work is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. We commend these efforts. By no means should our lack of enthusiasm for study of UFO reports as such be misconstrued as a recommendation that these important related fields of scientific work not be adequately supported in the future. In an era of major development of air travel, of space exploration, and of military aerospace activities, everything possible should be done to improve the training of astronauts and aircraft pilots in the recognition and understanding of such phenomena.

As the reader of this report will readily judge, we have focused attention almost entirely on the physical sciences. This was in part a matter of determining priorities and in part because we found rather less than some persons may have expected in the way of psychiatric problems related to belief in the reality of UFO's as craft from remote galactic or intergalactic civilizations. We believe what the rigorous study of the beliefs—unsupported by valid evidence—held by individuals and even some groups might prove of scientific implication here that individual or group psychopathology is a principal area of study. Reports of UFO's offer interesting challenges to the student of cognitive processes as they are affected by individual and social variables. By this connection, we conclude that a content -analysis of press and television coverage of UFO reports might yield data of value both to the social scientist and the communications specialist. The lack of such a study in the present report is

due to a judgment on our part that other areas of investigation were of much higher priority. We do not suggest, however, that the UFO phenomena is, by its nature, more amenable to study in these disciplines than in the physical sciences. On the contrary, we conclude that the same specificity in proposed research in these areas is as desirable as it is in the physical sciences.

The question remains as to what, if anything, the federal government should do about the UFO reports it receives from the general public. We are inclined to think that nothing should be done with them in the expectation that they are going to contribute to the advance of science.

This question is inseparable from the question of the national defense interest of these reports. The history of the past 21 years has repeatedly led Air Force officers to the conclusion that none of the things seen, or thought to have been seen, which pass by the name of UFO reports, constituted any hazard or threat to national security.

We felt that it was out of o ur province to attempt an independent evaluation of this conclusion. We adopted the attitude that, without attempting to assume the defense responsibility which is that of the Air Force, if we came across any evidence whatever that seemed to us to indicate a defense hazard we would call it to the attention of the Air Force at once. We did not find any such evidence. We know of no reason to question the finding of the Air Force that the whole class of UFO reports so far considered does not pose a defense problem.

At the same time, however, the basis for reaching an opinion of this kind is that such reports have been given attention, one by one, as they are received. Had no attention whatever been given to any of them, we would not be in a position to feel confident of this conclusion. Therefore it seems that only so much attention to the subject should be given as the Department of Defense deems to be necessary strictly from a defense point

of view. The level of effort should not be raised because of arguments that the subject has scientific importance, so far as present indications go.

It is our impression that the defense function would be performed within the framework established for intelligence and surveillance operations without the continuance of a special unit such as Project Blue Book, but this is a question for defense specialists rather than research scientists.

It has been contended that the subject has been shrouded in official secrecy. We conclude otherwise. We have no evidence of secrecy concerning UFO reports. What has been miscalled secrecy has been no more than an intelligent policy of delay in releasing data so that the public does not become confused by premature publication of incomplete studies of reports.

The subject of UF O's has been widely misrepresented to the public by a small number of individuals who have given sensationalized presentations in writings and public lectures. So far as we can judge, not many people have been misled by such irresponsible behavior, but whatever effect there has been has been bad.

A related problem to which we wish to direct public attention is the mis - education in our schools which arises from the fact that many children are being allowed, if not actively encouraged, to devote their science study time to the reading of UFO books and magazine articles of the type referred to in the preceding paragraph. We feel that children are educationally harmed by absorbing unsound and erroneous material as if it were scientifically well founded. Such study is harmful not merely because of the erroneous nature of the material itself, but also because such study retards the development of a critical faculty with regard to scientific evidence, which to some degree ought to be part of the education of every American.

Therefore we strongly recommend that teachers refrain from giving students credit for school work based on their reading of the presently available UFO books and magazines. Teachers who find their students strongly motivated in this direction should attempt to channel their interests in the direction of serious study of astronomy and meteorology, and in the direction of critical analysis of arguments for fantastic propositions that are being supported by appeals to fallacious reasoning or false data.

We hope that the results of our study will prove useful to scientists and those responsible for the formation of public policy generally in dealing with this problem which has now been with us for 21 straight years.

The majority of press copy with regards to the Colorado study was straightforward and quite favorable. I was extremely pleased with the way Time,Newsweek,New York Times,Washington Post, Science, Dayton Daily News, NBC, ABC, and CBS commented on the report. Their comments were serious and informative. The saucer buff's were not going to accept the study's conclusions without a verbal fight, so staff members of NICAP called a press conference. They protested vehemently that the study had ignored vast amounts of reliable unexplained cases. It was the same old crap, if it wasn't endorsed or invented by NICAP, then criticize it or tear it down. The saucer buffs had good reason to be annoyed and concerned. The study had shot down a number of their pet philosophical theories, from which they have never recovered. Interest in the hobby clubs was diminished and the study certainly didn't help them recruit intellectual members or help their financial situation. After the Colorado study was released, UFO's and flying saucers were no longer front page copy and we decided to make our move.

THE END IS PLANNED

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Dr. Condon's report was thoroughly studied, reviewed, and criticized by various members of the Air Staff and by the staff at Project Blue Book. Everyone who reviewed the report and who had been intimately associated with Project Blue Book agreed that it was a good study and required some action on our part. Major Dave Shea, Lt. Col. Jim Aikman, and myself were determined that the negative inertia which was present on the staff at the time that the Robertson Panel Report was released would disappear. Dr. Ratchford and Dan Taylor of CAR would contribute, but the ball game now belonged to the Air Staff. We decided to convene a meeting and invite the Commands which had been intimately involved with the program. The Pentagon sent out the invitations and the meeting was set for 19 February, 1969. We had a good cross-section of representatives and everyone was allowed to criticize the report, state his Commands' position with regards to UFO's, and to submit recommendations. I was prepared to have a knock-down-drag-out sort of meeting, but it never materialized that way and the conclave broke up with one unanimous decision: We now have a hammer so lets use it. I left the meeting delighted, full of hope, and anxious to break the news to my Commander Colonel George R. Weinbrenner. There was one thing that all my Commanders; Colonel Raymond S. Sleeper, George R. Weinbrenner, Brig. General Arthur J. Pierce, and Brig. General Arthur W. Cruikshank, had in common and that was "Project Blue Book was a great big pain in the ass". That quote came from Colonel Sleeper, but the rest of my Commanders felt the same way and said the same thing using different words. The Project was a drain on space, money, engineering, talent, clerical help, and it subjected the organization to unwanted publicity. Every time a reporte4r came to visit me, my Commanders would cringe for fear that my remarks would bring the organization unwanted publicity. This happened a couple of times, but no lasting damage was ever done.

THE PACKAGE

On the plane back to Wright-Patterson I kept thinking about my next assignment. Would it be Elgin, Hanscom, or "oh no, not Rome, New York

again". I wasn't too keen on going back to zero degree weather again. As soon as I got into Dayton I informed Colonel Weinbrenner and Dr. Cacioppo of the conclave's decision. Colonel Weinbrenner was extremely happy and told me to stay with it and keep him informed. I passed many memos to Colonel Weinbrenner during the period July to December, 1969, because the "package" which recommended canceling Project Blue Book hit many snags. The "package" as we referred to it was a series of documents and papers which supported the recommendations to cancel the Project. At one time, the "package" measured two and one -half inches. Every time some General didn't like a word, sentence, or paragraph, the changes had to be incorporated and that portion had to be re-typed. Generals in the Pentagon like to express themselves by using pet words and expressions and this causes a lot of re-write when you try to get their coordination signature on a document. The biggest snag we hit was in the General Council's office. They had the package for at least two and one-half months, but in all fairness to them their job was

one of the toughest. Their main task is to protect the Secretary and every word, phrase, and sentence could have an ominous meaning if used in the wrong way. Needless to say, the re-write was tremendous after the General Council reviewed the package. A word here, a phrase or sentence there, and back to the typewriter went the complete package. I was mad at the time because of the time delay, but they did a hell of a good job. The delay was not really all their fault either.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

There were a couple of incidents which happened during this time which cause the General Council to drop his work on the package and concentrate on other efforts. One of these, was the insistent request by Congressman Morris K. Udall that we supply his constituent, Dr. James E. McDonald, with certain file information which was considered confidential. McDonald wanted certain names and addresses of witnesses to specific sightings and we wouldn't give them to him. Congressman Udall interceded in McDonald's behalf, but I wouldn't budge. In my early days as chief of the Project, I had been burned twice for releasing the names of witnesses and I wasn't going to get burned any more. One naïve newcomer to the Pentagon suggested to me that it might be best if I gave McDonald the information which he wanted. To his suggestion I replied, "No, hell no", however, I would be willing to send him the original files and he could reproduce them and send McDonald any information which his little heart desired. I had placed the monkey on his back and he must not have liked the load, because he never called again. We supplied McDonald with the sighting information which he requested, however, I deleted all names and addresses from reproduced copies. He could have gotten the same information without going through Congressman Udall, however, this procedure requires the involvement of five or six other high level people and guarantees some kind of instant response. I can't really blame some of the Congressmen, but I wish some of their Aides would grow up and learn how to screen the mail for legitimate and worthwhile requests. I've had some idiotic requests pass

through my desk, which weren't worth the effort, but I've had to comply in order to satisfy some Congressional Aide's use of his Congressman's franking signature. If you ever want to get a response to a problem or question, it doesn't matter how idiotic it might be, write your congressman and you'll get some sort of answer. Just remember that some poor son-of-a-bitch in your government's structure had to do all the research and the writing to supply you with the answer. Chances are, your Congressman never got to see your letter and never got to see his reply to you. I'm not knocking the system, it's the best I've seen.

THE COORDINATION

When the General Council finished his critique of the package and signed the coordination sheet, we thought we had it whipped, but we hit snags all over the Pentagon. Too many people worried about things that were none of their business, consequently delays were frequent until they could be convinced that their suggestion or question had been taken into consideration. In most offices, the

coordination was accomplished by a General officer or equivalent civilian chief. At the beginning, I never thought that my piddling little project would cause so much concern at such a high level in our government structure, but it did. Before the Air Force UFO Project could be cancelled the directive to accomplish that task had to be coordinated at the Air Staff level, and the last person on the chain of command at that level was General Ryan, the Chief of Staff. The next level of coordination was the Secretary's level and the Honorable Fred Seamans was the final coordinator at this level. The next level was the DOD, however this was more of a courtesy coordination and no delays or snags were anticipated after Secretary Seamans affixed his signature.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

It was now December, 1969, and eleven months had passed since Dr. Condon had submitted his report to the Air Force and to the nation. Traditionally, December is a bad month for any action in the Military Civilian Service structure. Everyone is occupied with Christmas baskets for the needy families, parties, leaves, etc. I really hadn't expected the Secretary to announce his decision to cancel Project Blue Book during Christmas week, however, that is exactly what happened. On the sixteenth of December, 1969, Major Shea from the Pentagon called and informed me that a news release was to be issued the following day announcing that Project Blue Book was to be cancelled, effective immediately. I called up my immediate boss, Colonel Richard Bagnard, and told him the good news. He told me that he would pass the good news to the "ole man", however, I was to go ahead and write a memo for the record. Lt. Carmen Marano, who had been my assistant since September of 1968, and I had prepared ourselves for an avalanche of telephone calls. As soon as the news hit the Wire Services, the telephone started ringing. For a few days we were busy answering questions and then the telephone stopped ringing. Boredom began to creep in as we waited for the official word to close the office. Sharon Cosby, my secretary after Marilyn left, Carman and I spent a boring

two weeks waiting for the official word. We knew it was on its way, but it was held up at Command Headquarters because of the holiday inertia. During those two weeks, I had time for luxurious thoughts about the program's past. I could also feel that the end was near and it would only be a matter of time before we would put the project to rest. As boredom left us, a certain degree of sadness began to take its place.

THE END IS NEAR

The news got around that we were closing our office, so in no time at all everything was parceled out. John Ballard, our Security Officer, had a need for my office and the old UFO file cabinet, so it was bequeathed to him without ceremonies. Major Frey, our Staff Weather Officer, had the good fortune of getting my lovely secretary, Sharon Cosby. Lt. Colonel Shra, won out in the end and my physicist assistant, Lt. Carman Marano went to work for him. I was on my way out of the service, so no special plans were made for me.

Lt. Marano and Sharon started indexing the files, so that we could start packing them. I started

reviewing each one of the file cases for content and arrangement. It was tedious work, but it had to be done and when we started packing the cases it was orderly and very neatly done. The files were packed in new boxes and each one was labeled. The decision was made by the Pentagon that the UFO case files would be deposited in the Historical Division of the USAF Archives at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Dr. Mawar was in charge of the Division and he and I talked at length about the transfer. The ground work for the transfer was discussed between he and I and we could foresee no problems. We finished packing the files and now all I needed was an aircraft to transport the files and myself to Maxwell. Colonel Weinbrenner had decreed this. I was to baby sit with those files until the Archives had officially signed for them. The task of getting an aircraft was assigned to Tony Ajar, Chief Transport Coordinator for FTD. Tony called me up one Friday afternoon and told me that he had an aircraft, but it was going to Miami first. I told him so, hell, what if we got diverted and had to land in Cuba, I'd be in a hell of a pickle. Five days later he called me up and told me that he had diverted a C-118 that was going to New Orleans. They would take me and the records to Maxwell, but I had to have the records loaded by ten o'clock. I told him that he was out of his ever-loving mind, but that I would try. I chased Tony and John Eckler all over the God damned base and finally caught up with them as Base Operations. Tony and John had loaded the records on the plane and little beads of perspiration were running down their faces. I had to laugh as I told them, "You guys really want to get rid of me, don't you?" They both laughed and Tony said, "Hell, yes, now start walking up the ramp, your plane is waiting", and it had been waiting for about five minutes. I felt like a very important person, however, my task was to deliver some very important papers.

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THE END OF A $20,000,000 FIASCO

The flight to Maxwell was nice and easy. As soon as we touched down a truck was on its way to unload the records. We reached the Archives in about five minutes and I turned the records over to the Custodian. It was a simple task with very little dialogue and no ceremonies. That simple task ended my responsibilities as the Chief of Project Blue Book and the Foreign Technology Division was no longer the record keeper for the UFO files. Essentially, that ended the Air Force's association with a $20,000,000 fiasco. I say essentially, because the Air Force still has to maintain the records for an indeterminate period. My feeling is that the records should be permanently retired, however, pressure from the hobby clubs will keep them open for a while longer. The Air Force is still on the hook and the American taxpayer will continue to pay for maintaining worthless records. Such is the way of pressure groups and American politics.

In the end, the communications media had a tremendous influence in the termination of the USAF UFO program. Their straight forward reporting of Dr. Condon's study convinced the American masses that the USAF UFO project was no longer necessary. One singular person deserves the gratitude of his fellow countrymen and that is Dr. Edward U. Condon. His efforts saved the American taxpayer many millions of dollars. He was not afraid to speak his piece, even though he knew that it would not be popular with most of the hobby clubs and various academic cliques.

Projects Blue Book, Grudge, and Sign have been retired and so ends another chapter of Air Force contribution to American history.

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OBSERVATIONS OF AN EX-INVESTIGATING OFFICER (UFO)

UFOs: An Air Force Dilemma

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The Air Force has kept detailed records of all UFO reports which have been submitted to the Project office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The following statistical data was derived from those records.

Total UFO reports (sightings) submitted to the Project office

Year 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969

Total Reports 102

166

370

243

170

1,225

509

487

545

670

1,006

627

390

557

591

474

399

562

887

1,060

1,000

392

148

12,580 total reports

Source case files “ “ “

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The statistical data bring out some interesting correlations with regards to frequency of sightings in years 1952, 2957, and 1964-1967. In the year 1957, according to UFO buffs and certain members of the News Media, Washington D.C. was invaded by waves of flying saucers. The saucers were plotted on various radar sets in the Washington vicinity and the Communications Media went wild. The more copy the communications media gave the Washington D.C. saucers, the greater the number of sightings which were reported to the Air Force. Because of the number of unidentified moving targets which were being reported by radar operators, the Civil aeronautics Administration made a study of this phenomenon and published its conclusions in May of 1953. The following is a summary of the report.

SUMMARY

This report describes the investigation of a type of unidentified moving target which has been observed recently in considerable numbers on the viewing screens of the air traffic control radar equipment operated by the Civil Aeronautics Administration. This investigation was conducted by means of interviews with personnel concerned, by study and correlation of official records, and by first-hand observation of numerous targets on the Washington Microwave-Early-Warning(MEW) radar and on the Indianapolis ABR-2 radar.

It was determined that targets which are known to operating personnel by various terminologies such as “ghosts”, “angels”, or “pixies” do not represent new phenomena; nor are they peculiar to the Washington area. Correlation of controllers reports with United States Weather Bureau records indicated that a surface temperature inversion was almost always noted when such targets appeared on the radar.

Firsthand observation in the tracking and subsequent motion analysis of 80 of these unidentified targets indicated that a large number of these were

actually secondary reflections of a radar beam. Apparently these reflections were produced by isolated refracting areas which traveled with the wind at or near the temperature inversion levels.

Although the exact size, shape, and composition of these isolated areas are not known, it is believed that they may be atmospheric eddies produced by a shearing action of dissimilar air strata. It appears possible that such eddies may refract and focus the radar energy with a lens effect to produce small concentrations of ground return with sufficient intensity to show up in the radar display. It is also believed that the correlation of the appearance of these radar targets with visual reports of so-called “flying saucers” is due to the strong probability that both effects are caused primarily by abrupt temperature inversions.

Such radar targets are usually easy to recognize because of their generally weak return and slow ground speed. Unfortunately, radar returns from small helicopters sometimes present these same characteristics. Spurious targets of this type can become a nuisance under busy traffic conditions, particularly in localities where helicopter operations are prevalent.

The report is comprehensive and replete with technical data. The following is their conclusions with regards to the Washington D.C. radar sightings.

1. It is believed that most of the unidentified targets observed on the Washington MEW radar during the period beginning on the night of August 13, 1952, and the period beginning on the night of August 15, 1952, were ground returned caused by reflection phenomena closely connected with the temperature inversions in the lower atmosphere.

2. Unidentified radar targets of the type described in this report have been noticed since the early days of radar. Unusual weather conditions prevailing in the Washington area during the summer of 1952 were exceptionally conductive to the formation of these phenomena. 3. Present evidence indicates that the appearance of unidentified targets of this nature on radar scopes has but little effect on the control of air traffic. At its worst, it forms a nuisance by cluttering the scope display and by requiring that additional traffic information or heading instructions be issued in order to protect other traffic against the possibility that such a target might be a helicopter.

4. In some cases, it would be desirable to provide the controller with a more positive method of identifying targets such as these so that he could determine quickly whether they are spurious or whether they are actual aircraft.

The number of sightings in 1953 leveled off, but flying saucers were now a popular household phrase and flying saucer watching had become a popular pastime.

The year 1957 was another big year and again the communications media had a tremendous amount of influence on the number of sightings and creating interest in our heavenly bodies. 1957 was the year of Sputnik and it was also the year when 341 astronomical sightings were reported to the Air Force. No other year came close to equaling the record number of astronomical sightings of 1957.

The years 1964 through 1967 were record years for the project and also for the communications media. We start out with the Socorro, New Mexico sighting in April, 1964, and it levels off when Dr. Edward U. Condon finishes his Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. In between those two events, the copy on UFO’s from the communications media was out of sight. We don’t hear too much about UFO’s any more, however, there

are a few groups who would continue to keep the subject alive and most of these do it strictly for personal gain.

Along these lines, I've often been asked by individuals what I think and I reply thusly. It would be egotistical of man to think that the creator built the magnificent Universe with all its majestic beauty just for an insignificant planet. No, I believe that there is life on other planets, but the vast distances which separate us also prohibit us from communicating with each other. Intelligent life in other planets of the Universe is a possibility, however, the hypothesis that we have been visited by flying saucers from another planet is not supported by fact. I have personally reviewed over 10,000 UFO reports which were submitted to the Air Force and I can honestly say that not one of them has led me to believe that we have been visited by an extraterrestrial vehicle.

I realize that the proponents of extraterrestrial visitation will cry out in dismay over my uneducated statement, but the truth of the matter is that we Americans have a history of being romantics and often imagine the impossible dreams. If you believe in extraterrestrial visitation, then for everyone's sake, present your evidence, state your facts, and let the true scientists of our nation be the judges. Let's quit exploiting the masses; because if you are the founder of an extraterrestrial vehicle, it will be self - evident and fame and fortune await you beyond your wildest dreams.

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LETTERS

As Chief of Project Blue Book, I received many letters from people of all age groups. Some of them were nice and some of them were not. I took my lumps and then I also received my bouquets. The vast majority of personal letters which I received were in the nice category and I would like to share a few of them with you.

The following letter/poem is my favorite one because it demonstrates a number of qualities about the person who wrote it. Donita Gareri was a very young teen when I gave her that interview in my office on a Saturday morning.

“Dear Major Quintanilla,

I wish to thank you for giving me your time to talk about UFO’s. It was a very interesting meeting and I enjoyed it very much. I also enjoyed looking at the files, reports, and maps. Also, I wish to thank you for the books and pamphlets concerning UFO’s. Despite all your information, I guess I would still like to believe in “flying saucers”. I guess you’ll have to “work on me” some more. Oh yes, I have composed a small thank-you poem for your talk on UFO’s.

Surrounded by those globes and maps, hanging on the walls,

Looking at the planets there Either huge or small,

I felt my senses wander through the endless times of space, And wonder if a saucer there, Did through the blue sky race.

Are they real? I asked myself. Is it really true?

Do they have some flashing lights Read and orange and blue?

Are they manned by little men Smarter than we are? Do they come form a planet, Or an unknown star?

Your talk was very interesting, And so I do thank you. But as for flying saucers, well I leave that up to you.

THE END Yours Truly

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Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr. Chief, Project Blue Book Wright-Patterson AFB Dayton, Ohio

Dear Hector:

I hope you enjoy my little poem; (and I did)

There was a young lad named Hector,

Who was asked to be an inspector.

He tried in vain, but he couldn't explain

The objects that visited Exeter.

A.C.

(Nobody, but nobody called me Hector around the outfit. They called me "Quint" or "Q".)

Major Quintanilla:

I don't have much to report this time. It's sort of disappointing to observe only some th routine flying by the space ships, after seeing the big show up on the Moon on November 6 .

I can't forget the show that they put on October27th. They really went all out to put on a good show, using that big full moon as a mammoth, lighted stage and the reflected sunlight from the Earth as huge flood lights, shining down on the stage.

The space ship pilots showed terrific bursts of speed in their big, sweeping, semi- circular arcs up from the moon, or down toward the moon's surface.

I will never forget how they let the big star attraction have the stage completely to itself. As they moved it slowly and like a Queen, right across the very center of that stage.

Although through my binoculars, that big long space ship resembled only a tiny- pointed pencil with tiny, triangular tail fins, it still was able to give you the impression that it was a big, long, heavy, ship by the way that it moved.

These explorers of our planet based on the Moon sure know how to put on a good show, with what little equipment that they have.

Sincerely yours,

Marty

(Marty was one of my regular pen pals and I had many of those. He called me, he visited me, and he wrote me letters. He tried to be helpful, but he did take up a lot of my time. How do you tell an individual to flake-off when you know very well that by doing so you will hurt him deeply. I didn’t and when I destroyed his file it was two inches thick.)

UFOs: An Air Force Dilemma

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Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr. Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

Major Quintanilla,

I am a firm believer in Unidentified Flying Objects. Let us say that these objects do exist-but from where do they come? The most popular theory concerning their origin is that they are extraterrestrial. However, we are aware of the limitations of interstellar travel. I have another theory of their origin: they are from the fourth dimension, time. Could Unidentified Flying Objects be our future space vehicles? Could these vehicles be piloted by future generations? Could a gap connecting the present with the past and/or future exist? Why not?

Upon hearing of this theory, one would ask “why don’t they communicate with us”? It is meant that man be allowed to know his destination? I would say no. You can imagine the fear this knowledge would bring. It could be said that these people are intelligent enough to know better than to reveal the future to us. Yet another question arises: How did these vehicles get here? If you consider the speed of an object like this and the distance it could cover in a short period of time, it would be more apt to fall into this invisible, measurable gap in time than our aircraft. This theory of the UFO and time is the result of my hearing of the disappearance of five TBM Avengers and one PBM Martin Mariner on December 5, 1945.

I realize that you are busy, but if possible I would appreciate hearing your opinion of this theory and receiving any information you might have on the TBM Avengers and the PBM Martin Mariner.

Sincerely,

D.M.

(The Avengers disappeared over the so-called Bermuda triangle and the Navy made a thorough investigation of this tragedy. The Navy findings were inconclusive, however, UFO buffs like to present this incident as a classic, supporting their extraterrestrial hypothesis. Since the writer asked my opinion I gave it to him and I told him that I believed that the Avengers and the Martin Mariner were destroyed when they hit a patch of Char Air Turbulence (CAT). Very little is know of CAT (an atmospheric phenomena which behaves like a vacuum or like a suction at times) and numerous aircraft have been involved with this phenomena. The phenomena is destructive in nature and our modern radar equipment is incapable of detecting the patches before flying into their midst. More research needs to be done in this area and the government is aware of this and is expanding some resources towards a solution of this problem.)

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Lt. Col Hector Quintanilla

Major Hector Quintanilla Jr. Project Blue Book Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

Dear Major Quintanilla,

I would like to offer a plausible explanation (1) for the appearance of the UFO's, (2) why, if they are not a vehicle of ours or another nation, they do not contact us, and (3) where possibly they may be from.

First, observation over the years shows us the majority of the UFO's when sighted on the ground are usually in the vicinity of, or over water, also related are high tension wires. A tube projects underneath.

When they do seem to follow us, as they have our cars and trucks, they are using diversionary tactics, making believe they are observing us when their primary interest is for refueling and stealing our water.

Our U.S. Army is perfecting an NH9 engine (ammonia). Water can be decomposed by electricity to H+ and 0-, high energy fuels. M.I.T. has also been working on a type of gravity machine. So may life on another planet such as Jupiter. Science says that life could exist there.

We see now conditions that seem to answer our questions. Why they appear usually at night and run away from us—they are not really interested in us but our water. Jupiter has ample hydrogen and some water but too large a land mass. When they return they have the oxygen remaining after using the hydrogen or ammonia in swamp water, their planet has methane and ammonia to react with oxygen.

If we may believe some accounts that these people are about 4-5 feet high, 80-190 pounds, and a greenish coloring exactly fitting the conditions as Jupiter's density, gravity, and atmosphere by them. I believe they need a varified oxygen atmosphere, however, they need water.

Also, why do our polar glaciers seem to be receding without increasing our water supply?

Sincerely,

D.M.

(I used to get all types of theories about the origin of the UFO’s, their alleged occupants, design of the vehicles, etc. A couple of these designs were so clever and well made, that I had our engineers check them out for feasibility. None of them ever amounted to anything, but we did consider them.)